P ENT COOPERATION TREA

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Box PCT
Washington, D.C.20231
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 17 July 2000 (17.07.00)	
International application No. PCT/GB99/03753	**Applicant's or agent's file reference** AJR/40273
International filing date (day/month/year) 11 November 1999 (11.11.99)	**Priority date** (day/month/year) 11 November 1998 (11.11.98)
Applicant KEMP, Michael, Joseph	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

[X] in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

08 June 2000 (08.06.00)

[ ] in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election [X] was

[ ] was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO **34, chemin des Colombettes** **1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland**	Authorized officer Juan Cruz
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
AJR/40273		
International application No.	International filing date *(day/month/year)*	(Earliest) Priority Date *(day/month/year)*
PCT/GB 99/ 03753	11/11/1999	11/11/1998

Applicant

SINTEFEX AUDIO LDA et al.

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 2 sheets.

[X] It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. **Basis of the report**

   a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

   [ ] the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

   b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

   [ ] contained in the international application in written form.

   [ ] filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

   [ ] furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

   [ ] furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readble form.

   [ ] the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

   [ ] the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. [ ] **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. [ ] **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

   [X] the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

   [ ] the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

   [X] the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

   [ ] the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

   [ ] as suggested by the applicant.

   [X] because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

   [ ] because this figure better characterizes the invention.

   [ ] None of the figures.

PCT COPY

REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

For receiving Office use only

International Application No.

International Filing Date

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference *(if desired) (12 characters maximum)* AJR/40273

Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION

AUDIO DYNAMIC CONTROL EFFECTS SYNTHESISER WITH OR WITHOUT ANALYSER

Box No. II APPLICANT

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name: for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)*

SINTEFEX AUDIO Lda
Vale Formosilho
S. Marcos da Serra
P-8375
PORTUGAL

☐ This person is also inventor.

Telephone No.
+351 282 361748

Facsimile No.
+351 282 361749

Teleprinter No.

State *(that is, country)* of nationality: PT

State *(that is, country)* of residence: PT

This person is applicant for the purposes of: ☐ all designated States ☒ all designated States except the United States of America ☐ the United States of America only ☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name: for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)*

KEMP, Michael Joseph
Vale Formosilho
S. Marcos da Serra
P-8375
PORTUGAL

This person is:

☒ applicant only

☐ applicant and inventor

☐ inventor only *(If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)*

State *(that is, country)* of nationality: GB

State *(that is, country)* of residence: PT

This person is applicant for the purposes of: ☐ all designated States ☐ all designated States except the United States of America ☒ the United States of America only ☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

☐ Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.

Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as: ☒ agent ☐ common representative

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name: for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)*

ROBSON, Aidan John
Reddie & Grose
16 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8PL
UNITED KINGDOM

Telephone No.
+44 20 7242 0901

Facsimile No.
+44 20 7242 3290/0286

Teleprinter No.

☐ **Address for correspondence:** Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.

Box No. V DESIGNATION OF STATES

The following designations are hereby made under Rule 4.9(a) *(mark the applicable check-boxes; at least one must be marked)*:

Regional Patent

☒ AP ARIPO Patent: GH Ghana, GM Gambia, KE Kenya, LS Lesotho, MW Malawi, SD Sudan, SL Sierra Leone, SZ Swaziland, UG Uganda, ZW Zimbabwe, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT

☒ EA Eurasian Patent: AM Armenia, AZ Azerbaijan, BY Belarus, KG Kyrgyzstan, KZ Kazakhstan, MD Republic of Moldova, RU Russian Federation, TJ Tajikistan, TM Turkmenistan, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT

☒ EP European Patent: AT Austria, BE Belgium, CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein, CY Cyprus, DE Germany, DK Denmark, ES Spain, FI Finland, FR France, GB United Kingdom, GR Greece, IE Ireland, IT Italy, LU Luxembourg, MC Monaco, NL Netherlands, PT Portugal, SE Sweden, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT

☒ OA OAPI Patent: BF Burkina Faso, BJ Benin, CF Central African Republic, CG Congo, CI Côte d'Ivoire, CM Cameroon, GA Gabon, GN Guinea, GW Guinea-Bissau, ML Mali, MR Mauritania, NE Niger, SN Senegal, TD Chad, TG Togo, and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT *(if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line)* .....

National Patent *(if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line)*:

☒ AE United Arab Emirates
☒ AL Albania .....
☒ AM Armenia .....
☒ AT Austria .....
☒ AU Australia .....
☒ AZ Azerbaijan
☒ BA Bosnia and Herzegovina .....
☒ BB Barbados
☒ BG Bulgaria .....
☒ BR Brazil .....
☒ BY Belarus .....
☒ CA Canada
☒ CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein
☒ CN China .....
☒ CU Cuba .....
☒ CZ Czech Republic .....
☒ DE Germany .....
☒ DK Denmark .....
☒ EE Estonia .....
☒ ES Spain .....
☒ FI Finland .....
☒ GB United Kingdom
☒ GD Grenada
☒ GE Georgia .....
☒ GH Ghana .....
☒ GM Gambia
☒ HR Croatia .....
☒ HU Hungary .....
☒ ID Indonesia
☒ IL Israel .....
☒ IN India .....
☒ IS Iceland
☒ JP Japan .....
☒ KE Kenya .....
☒ KG Kyrgyzstan .....
☒ KP Democratic People's Republic of Korea .....
☒ KR Republic of Korea .....
☒ KZ Kazakhstan .....
☒ LC Saint Lucia
☒ LK Sri Lanka
☒ LR Liberia
☒ LS Lesotho .....
☒ LT Lithuania
☒ LU Luxembourg
☒ LV Larvia
☒ MD Republic of Moldova .....
☒ MG Madagascar .....
☒ MK The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia .....
☒ MN Mongolia
☒ MW Malawi .....
☒ MX Mexico .....
☒ NO Norway
☒ NZ New Zealand .....
☒ PL Poland .....
☒ PT Portugal .....
☒ RO Romania
☒ RU Russian Federation .....
☒ SD Sudan
☒ SE Sweden
☒ SG Singapore
☒ SI Slovenia .....
☒ SK Slovakia .....
☒ SL Sierra Leone .....
☒ TJ Tajikistan .....
☒ TM Turkmenistan .....
☒ TR Turkey .....
☒ TT Trinidad and Tobago .....
☒ UA Ukraine .....
☒ UG Uganda .....
☒ US United States of America .....
☒ UZ Uzbekistan .....
☒ VN Viet Nam .....
☒ YU Yugoslavia .....
☒ ZA South Africa .....
☒ ZW Zimbabwe .....

Check-boxes reserved for designating States which have become party to the PCT after issuance of this sheet:

☐ .....
☐ .....

Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. *(Confirmation of a designation consists of the filing of a notice specifying that designation and the payment of the designation and confirmation fees. Confirmation must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)*

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIM ☐ Further priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box.

Filing date of earlier application (day/month/year)	Number of earlier application	Where earlier application is: national application: country	regional application:* regional Office	international application: receiving Office
item (1) 11/11/1998 11 November 1998	9824776.0	GB		
item (2)				
item (3).				

☒ The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) *(only if the earlier application was filed with the Office which for the purposes of the present international application is the receiving Office)* identified above as item(s): (1)

* *Where the earlier application is an ARIPO application, it is mandatory to indicate in the Supplemental Box at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property for which that earlier application was filed (Rule 4.10(b)(ii)). See Supplemental Box.*

Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA) *(if two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used)*: ISA /

Request to use results of earlier search; reference to that search *(if an earlier search has been carried out by or requested from the International Searching Authority)*: Date *(day/month/year)* Number Country *(or regional Office)*

Box No. VIII CHECK LIST; LANGUAGE OF FILING

This international application contains the following **number of sheets**:

request	: 3
description (excluding sequence listing part)	: 25
claims	: 2
abstract	: 1
drawings	: 13
sequence listing part of description	:
Total number of sheets	: 44

This international application is **accompanied** by the item(s) marked below:

1. ☐ fee calculation sheet
2. ☐ separate signed power of attorney
3. ☐ copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any:
4. ☐ statement explaining lack of signature
5. ☐ priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s):
6. ☐ translation of international application into (language):
7. ☐ separate indications concerning deposited microorganism or other biological material
8. ☐ nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing in computer readable form
9. ☐ other *(specify)*:

Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract:

Language of filing of the international application: English

Box No. IX SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT OR AGENT

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).

ROBSON, Aidan John
Authorised Representative

For receiving Office use only

1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application:
2. Drawings: ☐ received: ☐ not received:
3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:
4. Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):
5. International Searching Authority (if two or more are competent): ISA /
6. ☐ Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid.

For International Bureau use only

Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau:

This sheet is not part of and does not count as a sheet of the international application.

PCT

FEE CALCULATION SHEET

Annex to the Request

For receiving Office use only

International application No.

Date stamp of the receiving Office

Applicant's or agent's file reference: AJR/40273

Applicant: SINTEFEX AUDIO LDA et al

CALCULATION OF PRESCRIBED FEES

1. TRANSMITTAL FEE . . . . . 55.00 T

2. SEARCH FEE . . . . . 638.00 S

International search to be carried out by _____

(If two or more International Searching Authorities are competent in relation to the international application, indicate the name of the Authority which is chosen to carry out the international search.)

3. INTERNATIONAL FEE

Basic Fee

The international application contains 44 sheets.

first 30 sheets 285.00 b1

14 (remaining sheets) x 6 (additional amount) = 84.00 b2

Add amounts entered at b1 and b2 and enter total at B . . . . 369.00 B

Designation Fees

The international application contains 2 designations.

2 (number of designation fees payable *(maximum 10)*) x 65 (amount of designation fee) = 130.00 D

Add amounts entered at B and D and enter total at I . . . . . 499.00 I

(Applicants from certain States are entitled to a reduction of 75% of the international fee. Where the applicant is (or all applicants are) so entitled, the total to be entered at I is 25% of the sum of the amounts entered at B and D.)

4. FEE FOR PRIORITY DOCUMENT *(if applicable)* . . . . . 22.00 P

5. TOTAL FEES PAYABLE . . . . . 1214.00 TOTAL

Add amounts entered at T, S, I and P, and enter total in the TOTAL box

☐ The designation fees are not paid at this time.

MODE OF PAYMENT

☐ authorization to charge deposit account (see below)
☐ bank draft
☐ coupons
☐ cheque
☐ cash
☐ other *(specify)*:
☐ postal money order
☐ revenue stamps

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION *(this mode of payment may not be available at all receiving Offices)*

The RO/ _____

☐ is hereby authorized to charge the total fees indicated above to my deposit account.

☐ *(this check-box may be marked only if the conditions for deposit accounts of the receiving Office so permit)* is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the total fees indicated above to my deposit account.

☐ is hereby authorized to charge the fee for preparation and transmittal of the priority document to the International Bureau of WIPO to my deposit account.

Deposit Account No. _____ Date *(day/month/year)* _____ Signature _____

See Notes to the fee calculation sheet

The demand must be filed directly with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority or, if two or more Authorities are competent, with the one chosen by the applicant. The full name or two-letter code of that Authority may be indicated by the applicant on the line below:

IPEA/_____

PCT COPY CHAPTER II

DEMAND

under Article 31 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty:
The undersigned requests that the international application specified below be the subject of international preliminary examination according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty and hereby elects all eligible States (except where otherwise indicated).

For International Preliminary Examining Authority use only

Identification of IPEA	Date of receipt of DEMAND

Box No. I IDENTIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION

Applicant's or agent's file reference: AJR/40273

International application No.	International filing date *(day/month/year)*	(Earliest) Priority date *(day/month/year)*
PCT/GB99/03753	11/11/1999	11/11/1998

Title of invention

AUDIO DYNAMIC CONTROL EFFECTS SYNTHESISER WITH OR WITHOUT ANALYSER

Box No. II APPLICANT(S)

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name: for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)*

SINTEFEX AUDIO Lda
Vale Formosilho
S. Marcos da Serra
P-8375
PORTUGAL

Telephone No.: +351 282 361748
Facsimile No.: +351 282 361749
Teleprinter No.:

State *(that is, country)* of nationality: PT
State *(that is, country)* of residence: PT

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name: for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)*

KEMP, Michael Joseph
Vale Formosilho
S. Marcos da Serra
P-8375
PORTUGAL

State *(that is, country)* of nationality: GB
State *(that is, country)* of residence: PT

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name: for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)*

State *(that is, country)* of nationality:
State *(that is, country)* of residence:

☐ Further applicants are indicated on a continuation sheet.

See Notes to the demand form

International application No.
PCT/GB99/03753

Box No. III AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The following person is [X] agent [ ] common representative

and [X] has been appointed earlier and represents the applicant(s) also for international preliminary examination.

[ ] is hereby appointed and any earlier appointment of (an) agent(s)/common representative is hereby revoked.

[ ] is hereby appointed, specifically for the procedure before the International Preliminary Examining Authority, in addition to the agent(s)/common representative appointed earlier.

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name: for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)*

ROBSON, Aidan John
Reddie & Grose
16 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8PL
UNITED KINGDOM

Telephone No.: +44 20 7242-0901

Facsimile No.: +44 20 7242-3290

Teleprinter No.:

[ ] **Address for correspondence:** Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special addr ess to which correspondence should be sent.

Box No. IV BASIS FOR INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Statement concerning amendments:*

1. The applicant wishes the international preliminary examination to start on the basis of:

[X] the international application as originally filed

the description [ ] as originally filed
[ ] as amended under Article 34

the claims [ ] as originally filed
[ ] as amended under Article 19 (together with any accompanying statement)
[ ] as amended under Article 34

the drawings [ ] as originally filed
[ ] as amended under Article 34

2. [ ] The applicant wishes any amendment to the claims under Article 19 to be considered as reversed.

3. [ ] The applicant wishes the start of the international preliminary examination to be postponed until the expiration of 20 months from the priority date unless the International Preliminary Examining Authority receives a copy of any amendments made under Article 19 or a notice from the applicant that he does not wish to make such amendments (Rule 69.1(d)). *(This check-box may be marked only where the time limit under Article 19 has not yet expired.)*

* Where no check-box is marked, international preliminary examination will start on the basis of the international application as originally filed or, where a copy of amendments to the claims under Article 19 and/or amendments of the international application under Article 34 are received by the International Preliminary Examining Authority before it has begun to draw up a written opinion or the international preliminary examination report, as so amended.

Language for the purposes of international preliminary examination: ENGLISH

[X] which is the language in which the international application was filed.
[ ] which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search.
[ ] which is the language of publication of the international application.
[ ] which is the language of the translation (to be) furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination.

Box No. V ELECTION OF STATES

The applicant hereby elects all eligible States *(that is, all States which have been designated and which are bound by Chapter II of the PCT)*

excluding the following States which the applicant wishes not to elect:

See Notes to the demand form

Sheet No. 3/3

International application No.
PCT/GB99/03753

Box No. VI CHECK LIST

The demand is accompanied by the following elements, in the language referred to in Box No. IV, for the purposes of international preliminary examination:

			For International Preliminary Examining Authority use only: received	not received
1. translation of international application	:	sheets	☐	☐
2. amendments under Article 34	:	sheets	☐	☐
3. copy (or, where required, translation) of amendments under Article 19	:	sheets	☐	☐
4. copy (or, where required, translation) of statement under Article 19	:	sheets	☐	☐
5. letter	:	sheets	☐	☐
6. other *(specify)*	:	sheets	☐	☐

The demand is also accompanied by the item(s) marked below:

1. ☐ fee calculation sheet
2. ☐ separate signed power of attorney
3. ☐ copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any:
4. ☐ statement explaining lack of signature
5. ☐ nucleotide and or amino acid sequence listing in computer readable form
6. ☐ other *(specify)*:

Box No. VII SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the demand).

ROBSON, Aidan John
Authorised Representative

For International Preliminary Examining Authority use only

1. Date of actual receipt of DEMAND:
2. Adjusted date of receipt of demand due to CORRECTIONS under Rule 60.1(b):
3. ☐ The date of receipt of the demand is AFTER the expiration of 19 months from the priority date and item 4 or 5, below, does not apply. ☐ The applicant has been informed accordingly.
4. ☐ The date of receipt of the demand is WITHIN the period of 19 months from the priority date as extended by virtue of Rule 80.5.
5. ☐ Although the date of receipt of the demand is after the expiration of 19 months from the priority date, the delay in arrival is EXCUSED pursuant to Rule 82.

For International Bureau use only

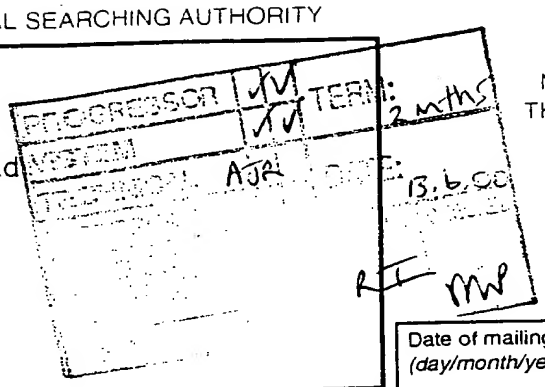
Demand received from IPEA on:

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
REDDIE & GROSE
Attn. ROBSON, A.
16, Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8PL
UNITED KINGDOM



NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference AJR/40273	Date of mailing *(day/month/year)* 13/04/2000
International application No. PCT/GB 99/ 03753	**FOR FURTHER ACTION** See paragraphs 1 and 4 below
Applicant SINTEFEX AUDIO LDA et al.	International filing date *(day/month/year)* 11/11/1999

1. [X] The applicant is hereby notified that the International Search Report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:
The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Fascimile No.: (41–22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. [ ] The applicant is hereby notified that no International Search Report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. [ ] **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

[ ] the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

[ ] no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Further action(s):** The applicant is reminded of the following:

Shortly after **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90*bis*.1 and 90*bis*.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later).

Within **20 months** from the priority date, the applicant must perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the demand or in a later election within 19 months from the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound by Chapter II.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL–2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016	Authorized officer Ahmed Soliman

Form PCT/ISA/220 (July 1998)

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

(i) the claim is unchanged;

(ii) the claim is cancelled;

(iii) the claim is new;

(iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;

(v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."

2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."

3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."

4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international appplication is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	**FOR FURTHER ACTION** see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
AJR/40273		
International application No.	International filing date *(day/month/year)*	(Earliest) Priority Date *(day/month/year)*
PCT/GB 99/03753	11/11/1999	11/11/1998
Applicant		
SINTEFEX AUDIO LDA et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 2 sheets.

[X] It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. **Basis of the report**

   a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

   [ ] the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

   b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

   [ ] contained in the international application in written form.

   [ ] filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

   [ ] furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

   [ ] furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readble form.

   [ ] the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

   [ ] the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. [ ] **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. [ ] **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title,**

   [X] the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

   [ ] the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract,**

   [X] the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

   [ ] the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

   [ ] as suggested by the applicant.

   [X] because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

   [ ] because this figure better characterizes the invention.

   [ ] None of the figures.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

ROBSON, A.
REDDIE & GROSE
16, Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8PL
GRANDE BRETAGNE

AJR

RI

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing *(day/month/year)*	13.07.2000
Applicant's or agent's file reference AJR/40273	**IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION**

International application No.	International filing date *(day/month/year)*	Priority date *(day/month/year)*
PCT/GB99/03753	11/11/1999	11/11/1998

Applicant
SINTEFEX AUDIO LDA et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.

2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.

3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/	Authorized officer
European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Röhner, M Tel.+49 89 2399-2294

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
AJR/40273		
International application No.	International filing date *(day/month/year)*	Priority date *(day/month/year)*
PCT/GB99/03753	11/11/1999	11/11/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G10H1/46		
Applicant SINTEFEX AUDIO LDA et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

   ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

   These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

   - I ☒ Basis of the report
   - II ☐ Priority
   - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
   - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
   - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations suporting such statement
   - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
   - VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
   - VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
08/06/2000	13.07.2000
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Zwicker, T Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2841

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB99/03753

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-25 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-14 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/11-11/11 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims 1 - 14
	No:	Claims
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims 1 - 14
	No:	Claims
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims 1 - 14
	No:	Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The present application relates to amplitude control of audio signals as present e.g. in compressors. It should be noted that the various available compressors often are considered to have individual trademark "sounds".

The closest available state of the art would appear to be given on the one hand by document D2 (US-A-5 578 948) describing a digital non-linear distortion circuit in which the amplitude of the incoming audio signal is taken into account to ensure sufficient effect of the distorter also at low input levels. Only one (non-linear) gain characteristic is stored in this arrangement. On the other hand, documents D1 (US-A-3 519 724) and D3 (FR-A-2 257 173) describe analog envelope detectors controlling the gain of analog amplifiers and represent standard analog compressor/expander technology.

The present application aims for giving the user of a compressor a tool featuring selectable characteristics simulating the "sounds" of different compressors.

Claims 1 (method) and 8 (corresponding apparatus) propose to have data stored corresponding to a number of gain characteristics at a plurality of different signal levels, monitoring the amplitude of an audio input signal, and applying a chosen gain characteristic to the input signal.

This way, various typical compressor characteristics can be obtained.

Although the subject matter of present claim 1 appears rather straightforward once the problem of simulating various hardware compressors by a digital device is given, the presently available state of the art does not point to either the problem or the given solution.

Consequently, claim 1 would appear to meet the requirements of Art. 33 PCT.

Claims 2 - 14 relate to advantageous embodiments of the basic arrangement given by claims, and would therefore also appear to meet the requirements of Art. 33 PCT.

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

1. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

2. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the documents D1 - D3 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.

3. Throughout the description, reference is made to "The Prior Application" defined at the top of page 1 of the description as GB97/02159 (WO98/0714). In some cases (see e.g. the last paragraph on page 25 of the present description) the reader can not understand the intended meaning of the description without having this document. This is in conflict with the requirement that the application should be self-contained (see the Guidelines, Section IV, II-4.17).

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

Claim 8 is not entirely clear and therefore not in agreement with Art. 6 PCT since it apparently mixes features relating to an apparatus (lines 1 - 4 of the claim) and to a method, lines 5 - 7.

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 : G10H 1/46

A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/28521

(43) International Publication Date: 18 May 2000 (18.05.00)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/03753

(22) International Filing Date: 11 November 1999 (11.11.99)

(30) Priority Data:
9824776.0 11 November 1998 (11.11.98) GB

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: SINTEFEX AUDIO LDA [PT/PT]; Vale Formosilho, P–8375 S. Marcos da Serra (PT).

(72) Inventor; and
(75) Inventor/Applicant *(for US only)*: KEMP, Michael, Joseph [GB/PT]; Vale Formosilho, P–8375 S. Marcos da Serra (PT).

(74) Agent: ROBSON, Aidan, John; Reddie & Grose, 16 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PL (GB).

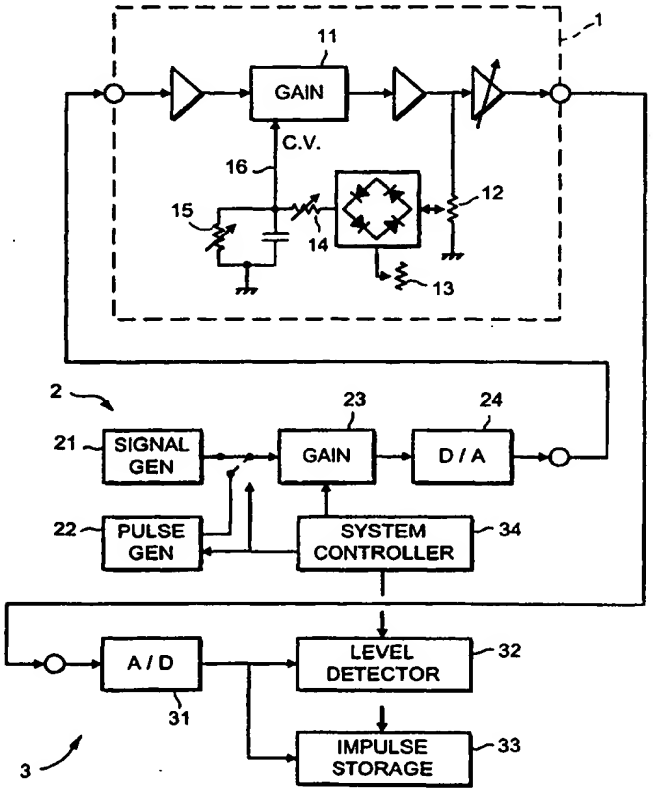
(81) Designated States: US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Published
With international search report.
Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: AUDIO DYNAMIC CONTROL EFFECTS SYNTHESISER WITH OR WITHOUT ANALYSER

(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal are provided. Data storing a plurality of gain characteristics at a plurality of different levels is stored in a storage means. The amplitude of an input signal is repeatedly assessed and from this a gain characteristic to be applied to the input is determined.



FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	**ES**	Spain	**LS**	Lesotho	**SI**	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	**FI**	Finland	**LT**	Lithuania	**SK**	Slovakia
AT	Austria	**FR**	France	**LU**	Luxembourg	**SN**	Senegal
AU	Australia	**GA**	Gabon	**LV**	Latvia	**SZ**	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	**GB**	United Kingdom	**MC**	Monaco	**TD**	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	**GE**	Georgia	**MD**	Republic of Moldova	**TG**	Togo
BB	Barbados	**GH**	Ghana	**MG**	Madagascar	**TJ**	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	**GN**	Guinea	**MK**	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	**TM**	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	**GR**	Greece			**TR**	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	**HU**	Hungary	**ML**	Mali	**TT**	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	**IE**	Ireland	**MN**	Mongolia	**UA**	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	**IL**	Israel	**MR**	Mauritania	**UG**	Uganda
BY	Belarus	**IS**	Iceland	**MW**	Malawi	**US**	United States of America
CA	Canada	**IT**	Italy	**MX**	Mexico	**UZ**	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	**JP**	Japan	**NE**	Niger	**VN**	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	**KE**	Kenya	**NL**	Netherlands	**YU**	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	**KG**	Kyrgyzstan	**NO**	Norway	**ZW**	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	**KP**	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	**NZ**	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon			**PL**	Poland		
CN	China	**KR**	Republic of Korea	**PT**	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	**KZ**	Kazakstan	**RO**	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	**LC**	Saint Lucia	**RU**	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	**LI**	Liechtenstein	**SD**	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	**LK**	Sri Lanka	**SE**	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	**LR**	Liberia	**SG**	Singapore		

Audio Dynamic Control Effects Synthesiser with or without Analyser

Patent Application PCT GB97/02159 (WO98/0714) ("The Prior Application") describes an audio effects synthesiser with or without analyser and should be read along with this description of further improvements.

The purpose of this invention is to store the characteristics of audio level control devices which have audibly desirable properties and to be able to synthesise these properties at will.

Summary of Figures

Figure 1 shows an analysis arrangement for a device under test (D.U.T.).
Figure 2 illustrates two characteristics of a compressor device namely the gain characteristic and the time dependent characteristic.
Figure 3 shows a flow diagram of the process of analysing the gain characteristic of a D.U.T.
Figure 4 shows a table of derived figures from a hypothetical 'ideal' compressor and some example figures which may be obtained in reality.
Figure 5 shows graphically the values of figure 4.
Figure 6 illustrates the derivation of intermediate ratio curves from measured curves.
Figure 7 shows the application of test impulses as required by The Prior Application in conjunction with a gain varying device.
Figure 8 shows a flow diagram for assessing the time constant characteristic of a D.U.T.
Figure 9 shows an arrangement for applying the simulation of a gain varying device in conjunction with the simulation of non-linearity described in The Prior Application.
Figure 10 shows a flow diagram of the implementation of the time constant characteristics of a device during simulation.
Figure 11 shows an example of an alternative way of collecting a set of impulse response data to simulate novel compression effects.

Figure 12 shows another example of an alternative way of collecting sets of impulse response data to further simulate compression effects.

Figure 13 shows in more detail the bi-linear interpolation method.

Characteristics of a Dynamic Range controlling Device.

Figure 1 shows a typical arrangement of an audio compressor device 1 (in this case the device under test), being driven by a signal generating arrangement 2, and being analysed by the signal analysis arrangement 3.

A compressor is designed to reduce the dynamic range of audio program material by reducing the amplitude of louder passages in relation to that of quieter passages. In a typical compressor as shown at 1, the input signal is fed (often with some pre-amplification and or variable attenuation) to a gain control element 11. This alters the amplitude of the signal which is then fed again usually via some amplification or buffering to the output where there is usually some additional variable gain available to compensate for attenuation in the overall signal path.

Some of the output signal is usually fed to a rectification circuit where controls 12 and 13 select a threshold above which gain reduction is to be effected and an amount or ratio by which gain is to be reduced according to the output signal. The rectified signal is further applied to a time constant arrangement where controls 14 and 15 apply attack and recovery time constants by which gain is reduced and restored when the output signal increases or decreases.

Note that there are a number of variations possible in this arrangement and also it is possible to rearrange the gain control circuitry so that dynamic range expansion is produced or so that signal gating may occur. These do not affect the operation of the analysis device.

The operation of the device under test is determined by the signal generating arrangement 2 comprising the choice of a continuous signal generator 21 or a pulse

generator 22 fed to a variable gain control element 23 and then to the device under test via a digital to analogue converter 24.

Note that the D-A converter may be omitted if the device under test is actually a digital device or if the signal generating arrangement is implemented in analogue circuitry. For the rest of this discussion the assumption is that the device under test is analogue and the analysis and synthesis device is digital.

The output of the device under test is fed to the signal analysis arrangement 3 comprising an analogue to digital converter 31 and the choice of level detection circuitry 32 and impulse storage circuitry 33.

The entire analysis arrangement is controlled by system controller 34 which is typically a data processing arrangement which may share processing hardware with various elements of the complete analysis and synthesis system.

Figure 2 shows the main characteristics of the device under test to be assessed.

Fig 2 (a) shows the gain characteristic of a typical compressor. Curve 41 shows the relationship between the input level of a signal fed to the device and the resulting output at a particular setting of the controls. It can be seen that at low levels the output rises linearly in proportion to the input, along the dotted line 43 such that a 1dB increase in input results in a 1dB increase in output.

As the input level approaches the threshold setting 42 the gain begins to modify to approach that of line 44 which represents the ratio or slope of the compressor. This may be for example that it requires a 3 dB increase in input to produce a 1 dB increase in output (a ratio of 3:1). There is usually no sudden transition at the threshold and the degree of 'softness' of the knee of the curve is one distinguishing characteristic of a particular compressor. It is also possible to have multiple thresholds between multiple ratios.

Fig 2 (b) shows the time constant characteristic of a typical compressor. The input signal is shown as a continuous sine wave which doubles in amplitude (increases by 6dB) at 45 and then decreases by 6dB at 46. The corresponding output shows that the there is an initial increase by 6dB at 47 following which the gain is reduced according to the attack time constant until it reaches an essentially stable reduced gain at 49 determined from the curve of part (a). When the input signal reduces by 6dB the output also reduces immediately by 6dB at 48 then the gain is increased according to the release time constant until the appropriate gain for the input as determined by the curve in part (a) is restored by point 50.

Time constants are typically operator variable and the range and options provided by a particular device contribute to the user perceived operability of the device and to the audible characteristics of the device under test. However it is not essential to measure these characteristics as a standard set of time constants can be provided which are common to most devices to be simulated. In the event that it is desired to assess this characteristic of a device under test to more closely simulate a specific device the method is described below.

The third characteristic that determines the audible effect of a gain control device is the distortion or non-linearity caused by the gain control element. This may be assessed using the means of The Prior Application with some small modifications as set out below.

Analysis of the gain characteristic.

To properly analyse a device under test to determine its gain characteristic it is necessary to take at least one set of measurements corresponding to a specific setting of the ratio control on the device. As is described later the characteristic of other ratios may be interpolated between any pair of measured ratio characteristics and it is also possible to further interpolate between a measured ratio characteristic and an ideal 1:1 (no compression) and infinity:1 (limiting compression) characteristic.

In this example three sets of measurements are taken, for example for a ratios of 1.5:1, 5:1 and 20:1 (although any value or values spanning commonly used ratios may be chosen). To take each set of measurements the attack and decay settings of the device should each be set to either their maximum settings or to 1 second, whichever is shorter.

To take the set of measurements corresponding to the ratio of 1.5:1, this setting is selected on the device under test, and if a threshold control is available this is set to -20dB, and the signal generator of figure 1 is set to generate a 1kHz sine wave tone (although other frequencies may be used as described later) at a typical operating level for the device, chosen to be suitably below the overload limit of the device. For a professional unit a level of 0dBm is appropriate. If available any make-up or output gain of the device under test should now be adjusted so that the level returned to the level detector of figure 1 is also at 0dBm once the gain of the device under test has reached a steady state. If such an output adjustment is not available and this level is not achievable it is permissible to use any appropriate output level from the device.

Figure 3 shows a flow diagram of the test procedure which the signal generator and level detector conduct under computer control once the above conditions are set up. A sequence of measurements are taken for signals fed to the device under test between -40dBm and 0dBm at 1 dB intervals. As each level generated is set up, the output level from the device under test is repeatedly assessed until this level becomes stable to within 0.1dB over a 100mS interval. The output level is then recorded for this input level.

The amplitude interval with which the tests are conducted is dependent on the accuracy required in the simulations. The 1dB steps described give good results for most applications but if there are time constraints on taking the tests optionally larger steps may be used and data may be interpolated to make up for missing detail.

The set of device output levels corresponding to each input levels step is recorded within the memory of the computer and may be represented by the first column of table (a) of figure 4.

The above set of tests may be repeated for as many ratio settings as desired, for example for ratios of 5:1 and 20:1, shown in the second and third columns of table (a) of figure 4.

The number of different sets of measurements each corresponding to a ratio setting to be taken depend on the degree of accuracy to which it is required to simulate the device under test and also the number of options available on the device. Simple devices may only have one or two slope options in which case these provide sufficient data for storing the characteristics of this device. The later description of the use of this data shows how available data is interpolated to provide options sometimes beyond what was available with the device under test.

Figure 4 (a) shows an example table of data derived from the device under test with some entries omitted for clarity. In fact these figures would be derived from a device with a 'perfect' gain characteristic as can be seen from the plot of these figures in figure 5 (a) which shows that there is no 'soft knee' as would be encountered in reality. Such a device may not sound ideal but serves to illustrate the process more clearly. It should also be clear that the ratio setting of the device means the change in output level divided by change in input level expressed in dB provided that the signal is well above the threshold.

(ratio = (delta dB in) / (delta dB out)).

If the ratio settings are not specified on the device under test the analyser may assess the curve by inspection of the data at the higher levels applied and assign a value to the ratio based on the above formula. It is also possible to store the actual text used to describe the ratios on the device under test (provided the operator enters this data) and

provide these options during simulation rather than the derived figures as an optional closer match to the user interface of the device under test.

These figures also show an exact setting of threshold at -20dBm at the input to the device. In practice if this varies with ratio settings the figures will not be so clear to interpret but the following processing still applies and the variations in the device will remain embedded within the data for simulation. If a calibrated threshold setting is provided but -20dB is not available, it is acceptable to use another convenient threshold setting and ideally the analyser will be arranged to allow this value to stored along with the analysis data. This threshold figure may then be used during simulation along with the operator's desired threshold to achieve an accurate simulation by adjustment of the values as described below.

Figure 4 (b) shows some more typical data which may be obtained from a real device and this serves to illustrate the next stage of processing.

Although figures are obtained for an input range of 40dB these figures are extrapolated by determining the actual slope at the upper end of the graph by averaging over the 3 or 4 highest measurements and using this slope to generate a notional straight line extrapolation at any further higher input level. At the lower end of the graph a slope of unity is assumed and this is used to extrapolate down to arbitrary low levels of input.

Simulation of the gain characteristic

During simulation of the gain characteristic of the device which was under test, the operator must first select a desired ratio R of compression to be applied to the signal to be processed by the simulation.

As the input signal is processed the amplitude is continually assessed according to details to be described. The input level is thus determined to be say I dB and this is indicated in figure 5(b).

If the value R matches the ratio of one of the stored curves, say 5:1, the desired output level may be immediately assessed by inspection of the data, and if the value I falls between two stored input values (say I1 and I2 in the diagram) a simple linear interpolation may be used to determine the desired output P. From the known input and desired output an attenuation G (which may be negative, i.e. an attenuation) may be simply calculated as

$$G = P - I,$$

and applied to the input signal as described below.

If the value R does not match the ratio of one of the stored curves but there is data for ratios greater and less than the value R then the desired output level can be determined by interpolation between the two stored ratios as follows with reference to figure 6.

Figure 6 shows a graphical representation of typical stored data where the curve for 5:1 is known (curve 73) and also that for 20:1 (curve 72). It is desired to interpolate curve 71 representing a ratio of 10:1 from this data. Also shown are ideal curves 1:1 (straight line 75) and infinity:1 (curve 74 which has a sharp knee where it meets curve 75 and progresses down at unity gain ratio along line 75).

The curves shown incorporate various approximations inherent in the device originally tested to produce this data including errors in ratio, differences in threshold and small offsets in gain at low level as would be expected from real devices. The interpolation described reflects these imperfections and provides a smooth transition from one curve to another under user control. Any interpolation towards one of the ideal curves will again produce a smooth transition from the measured curve to the ideal curve.

The following describes in detail the interpolation steps.

If curves are known for the higher ratio of M:1 and the lower ratio of N:1, and we desire to know the required output level at a given input level with a ratio of R:1, first determine the coefficient of linear interpolation a from the formula

$$a=N(M-R) / (R(M-N)). \quad (1)$$

Then if the output level at the higher ratio M:1 would be X dBm, and the output level at the lower ratio would be Y dBm determined from the relevant curves (using linear interpolation if necessary as described above), the output level Z we require for ratio R is

$$Z=(1-a)X + aY. \quad (2)$$

Therefore, first considering the example based on ideal curves where M=20 and N=5 are known curves (72 and 73) and it is desired to determine the output for a curve of R=10 (curve 71), substituting in equation 1, a is determined to be as follows:

$$a=N(M-R) / (R(M-N)) = 5(20-10)/(10(20-5)) = 5x10 / (10x15) = 1/3.$$

Referring again to figure 6 the dotted curve 71 representing a ratio of 10:1 may thus be derived by using the a = 1/3 at any input level to perform a linear interpolation between the two curves 72 and 73 according to formula (2) where X is the output level from curve 72 and Y is the output level from curve 73.

Note that although this interpolated curve may not be identical to a measured curve for this ratio from a device under test, the interpolated value satisfies the two criteria that (i) it does represent a reasonable derivation of the unmeasured value and as R is varied between the ratios of the two curves the interpolated curve smoothly transforms from one of the extreme curves to the other, and (ii) in the case of idealised curves the method produces an exact solution.

If the value R does not lie between two stored ratios one approach is to deny the setting to the user, offering the nearest alternative stored ratio as it was not possible to determine what the device under test would have provided for ratio R. Alternatively a desired ratio may be derived by interpolation using the above method between the nearest known ratio and (for a larger ratio) the ideal curve for an infinite ratio, as shown at 74 in figure 6, and (for a smaller ratio) a unity gain curve representing a 1:1 ratio, as shown at 75 in figure 6. In the case of interpolating to an infinite ratio, the formula (1) needs to adjusted as follows:

$$a=N/R. \qquad (3)$$

Thus a is unity if R is chosen to equal N as expected and a falls to zero as R tends towards infinity.

Where interpolation is towards a 1:1 ratio, equation 1 also simplifies with N=1 to

$$a=(M-R)/(R(M-1)). \qquad (4)$$

Thus when R is equal to M, a is zero, so the curve tends to that of M, and when R is 1, a is 1, thus the curve becomes exactly the 1:1 curve and no compression effect results.

The interpolation formulae (2) may also be applied directly to gains derived from each ratio rather than absolute output level for any given input level as the formula is independent of any constant added to each term, X, Y and Z.

Determination of Time Dependent Characteristics

In order to determine the time constant characteristic of the device under test it must be analysed for dynamic response. It is possible to take a number of test results from the device at different ratio settings if it is desired to simulate the device at greatest accuracy but generally the same time constants apply at all ratios and s it is possible to make the measurements at one fairly high ratio, for example 20:1.

The device under test should thus be set to a 20:1 ratio with a threshold of -20dBm or as close to this as possible and the signal generator 2 of figure 1 is set to produce a 0dBm tone at typically 1kHz. The output or make-up gain should be adjusted for a -20dB output from the device under test or as close as practical so that overshoots during test do not cause distortion.

The controls are first set to the fastest attack and release times available on the device under test, and then the analysis process is started and proceeds automatically as indicated in figure 8.

It is assumed that the output of the test generator is already at 0dBm into the device under test. The test output is first reduced to -20dBm (step 80) and the output from the device is repeatedly assessed (step 81) in the level detector 3 of figure 1 until the level has stabilised to a variation of less than 0.1dB over the period of typically 1 second. The variation in output level from the device is stored repeatedly during this process to determine the dynamic characteristic of the recovery time constant of the device.

The generator output is now increased again to 0dBm (step 82) and again the output of the device is repeatedly assessed and stored (step 83) until the output is again stable to within 0.1dB per second.

A number of ways of determining level during a rapidly changing signal are possible but since the signal generator and level detector are under full control of the system controller one method with fast response is to arrange that the frequency of the test tone is synchronous with the sampling rate of the generator/detector combination. Since the measured waveform is now synchronous with the sampling rate, the level calculation needs only be performed for one cycle period, repeatedly until stable.

From these measurements the time constant characteristic for the fast setting of the device under test can determined and stored. All the gain values for this derivation are considered as multiplicative factors, not as logarithm gain changes. The time constant is defined as follows: During a change in gain from G1 to G2 it is the time taken for

the gain to reach G3, where (G3 - G2) / (G1 - G2) = 1/e, where e is the exponential constant. Since the initial and final gain is known the period to reach this gain may be calculated from measured characteristic. This derivation applies when the input signal is increased suddenly in level. When the input signal is reduced suddenly, the gain recovery is usually exponential towards the gain setting applicable for zero input signal, so G2 should be taken as this limiting gain and if the gain does not lie between G1 and G2 under these conditions the time constant should be derived from a smaller change in gain according to the assumption that the gain follows a similar exponential curve.

It is also possible that a multi-stage time constant circuit is included, and inspection of the amplitude change characteristic can determine this for use in simulation.

Many existing devices offer a limited set of attack and recovery time constants, often labelled as fast/medium/slow and thus the measurements above should be repeated for each of these settings. In simulation the operator can be offered these simple choices which can recall the stored time constants when selected. In addition the user can be offered a continuously variable time constant to extend the simulation beyond that achievable with the original device under test, and where all three speed options are not available preset defaults can be supplied.

Determination of Distortion Characteristic at One or Multiple Attenuation Levels.

The final characteristic of the device to materially affect the audible performance is the non-linearity of the gain control element. Due to the analogue nature of many such gain elements significant non-linearities may be present both due to the device itself and due to the feedback of any audio signal into the gain control signal 16 of fig 1. The non-linearity of the device may be assessed in the following manner using and extending the techniques of The Prior Application.

There are three approaches to analysing and simulating the non-linearity of the gain element. One is to determine a single characteristic set of impulse responses according

to the method of The Prior Application of the gain control element in the linear portion of the curve of the device under test. This may be performed by setting the threshold control of the device sufficiently high that the test sequence of impulses of the The Prior Application do not at any time cause any gain reduction to take place. In addition if the device has a 1:1 setting this should be used to prevent gain variation. This establishes a fixed analysis of the of the gain control device which may be used in the simulation as a fixed processing characteristic to be applied to an input signal in addition to the gain control adjustment already described.

A further method is to assess two characteristic sets of impulse responses of the gain control at two different attenuations. Since most gain control devices operate in the range of zero gain reduction to 20dB of gain reduction, it is desirable to take two measurements of the distortion of the gain control device at these two extremes and to linearly interpolate them during simulation using methods of bilinear interpolation as disclosed in The Prior Application and shown in figure 13, in which one dimension of interpolation is the instantaneous amplitude of the incoming signal being interpolated between adjacent impulse levels, and the second dimension is interpolation between non-linearities of the two gain characteristics according to the degree of attenuation to be applied.

A third method is to take multiple assessments of the distortion characteristic at multiple gain reductions and to pair-wise interpolate to get the desired characteristic for any given required gain reduction.

In order to take measurements of the gain control element at specific attenuations it is necessary to modify the test signal described in The Prior Application to ensure that each test impulse is applied at a known attenuation of the device under test.

In order to do this the device under test should be set to slow attack and decay characteristics and a large ratio, say 20:1 if available.

Using the techniques already discussed to assess the gain characteristic it is now possible to apply a sine wave tone, typically at 1kHz, or at a frequency close to this that this synchronous with the sampling rate, that results in a known attenuation. This level is then maintained until the gain of the device under test has stabilised, again using the techniques already described.

Figure 7 (a) shows the sine wave being applied at 91 to achieve the desired gain. The sine wave is then removed (over short period T1 to minimise the impulsive effect). A period T2 is then allowed to elapse to allow any stored energy to dissipate. Figure 7(b) shows the output of the device under test which is being analysed by both the level detector 32 of figure 1 and the impulse storage unit 33. The signal 95 has been measured to indicate a steady state at the desired gain reduction. During period T2 any ripples 96 are ignored.

Step impulse 92 is applied after T2 and held as the response to this impulse 97 is stored. Finally after period T3 the step impulse is removed and the sine wave restored. The recovered wave 99 is then allowed to stabilise before the process is repeated for the next different amplitude impulse.

In this way a complete set of impulses are sequentially applied to the device in a known stable gain state and stored and processed according to the method of The Prior Application. In this way a characterisation of the non-linear response of the gain control element at the know gain reduction is obtained.

The sequence may be applied at a different desired gain to assess the non-linear response of the device at this different gain. In this way it is possible to store either two response sets for the two desired gains at either extreme of the range or if desired a complete set of responses spanning the desired range which may be pair-wise interpolated during simulation.

In experiment it has been determined that gain control elements demonstrate comparatively short impulse responses and so the entire impulse response may be

captured before the gain has significantly changed. In practice it is found a settling time T2 of about 100 samples at 48kHz is sufficient and a storage time T3 of 200 samples is sufficient to encapsulate the performance of the device under test. Thus the test is completed for each impulse in under 10mS from the discontinuation of the level setting tone 91. Recovery time constants of about 1 S are therefore sufficient to hold the gain sufficiently constant during this period.

It should be noted that if the make-up gain controls are not adjusted during taking a sequence of measurements (as would be expected during automated testing) and as the absolute levels of the impulse response are recorded, the gain reduction as well as the non-linearity characteristic is encapsulated in the stored impulse response.

The simulation process (described in detail below) applies an appropriate impulse response (or set of responses according to the Prior Application) dependent on the gain reduction to be achieved in the simulation. In addition it is capable of applying additional attenuation when simulating desired gain reductions outside the range sampled impulse responses with attenuation inherent in them. An exactly equivalent final result can be achieved in two ways, the choice being dependent on the implementation details of the system, for example, the amount of real time computing power available during the simulation.

Method 1 is to leave the impulse response (or sets of them) as sampled, with their inherent attenuation. In this way as the correct response is automatically selected the correct attenuation will be achieved. Intermediate attenuations can be achieved by an appropriate choice of linear interpolation coefficient. Extrapolated attenuations are achieved in simulation by using additional gain modification by means of a digital multiplier.

Method 2 is to eliminate the inherent attenuation from the sampled impulse responses. This process is known as normalisation. Since the exact attenuation inherent in each impulse-response (or set of them) is known according to the method described above, it is possible to multiply every element of the impulse response (or set of them) by a

constant which is the inverse of this attenuation factor. In this way, during the simulation, the impulse response selection and interpolation are used solely to determine the impulse response characteristic appropriate to an attenuation. The chosen impulse response will then not result in any intrinsic attenuation. The appropriate gain reduction is then applied independently in the additional gain reduction element (113 in example simulator to be described). This method allows the audio processor to offer the choice of simulating the gain reduction characteristic (in terms of input level to output level) with our without the simulation of the gain reduction signal quality sampled form the device under test. or with a user selectable limitation on the range of impulse responses to be applied.

Simulation of Level Control Device

Figure 9 shows an overall diagram of the simulator of level control devices.

Analogue to digital converter 101, which may be omitted if the input signal is already in digital form, takes an input analogue signal and feeds the signal to the modified convolution processor device 102 as described in The Prior Application comprising the modified convolution device 103 which convolves the incoming signal with the impulse response stored in the Finite Impulse Response Set (FIR set) storage device 105, under control of the amplitude assessment device 104 which selects on a sample by sample basis an appropriate response or pair of responses from FIR set storage 105 and also supplies an interpolation value 120 to processor 103.

The convolution processor 102 may also contain additional inputs 121 and 124 which receive a second interpolation value 121 (if required) and FIR set selector value 124 (if required), this FIR set selector value selecting between FIR sets representing different gain reductions of the original device under test, and the interpolation value 121 providing interpolation values between them.

Address value 122 is used to select the appropriate offset in each FIR appropriate to the convolution operation and the amplitude assessment unit provides up to two FIRs

from each set providing two values for interpolation, with set selection 124 selecting two sets of values to use, thus providing 4 data values on input 125 to the convolution processor for each step in the convolution. The two interpolation values 120 and 121 provide for bilinear interpolation between these four values selected on a sample by sample basis of the input signal.

The input signal is further applied to the amplitude assessor with time constants 106 which determines an envelope for the input signal on a sample by sample basis under control of the user selected time constants 109. The resulting envelope 126 is fed to gain reduction calculation device 127.

Adjustment is first made according to any user desired change in the threshold setting. If the original measurements were taken with an assumed threshold of -20dB, and the user now select a threshold of -10dB, the difference (10dB) is subtracted from the input level derived in order to determine the gain variation required to simulate by reference to the derived gain characteristic data. In general if the original measurements of the gain characteristic were taken at a threshold of -A dB and the user now desires a threshold of -B dB the amount (A-B) dB is subtracted from the derived input signal envelope.

Gain table data according to figures 4 and 5 is stored in Gain Table Memory 128 and whenever the user selects a new ratio a table appropriate to the desired ratio is calculated according to the description above in reference to figure 6 and stored in memory 130.

The envelope of the input signal, modified by a user change in desired threshold, is fed to memory 130 to determine the desired output level for the signal of this envelope, and accordingly to select a desired gain for the signal at this instant.

The desired gain is fed to impulse set selector 107 which selects the desired FIR or set of them according to the method to be described below (under the heading "Gain Reduction Processor") and derives signal 124 which is fed to the impulse response

memory addressing, and (in the case where a pair of impulse responses or sets of them is used) a linear interpolation value signal 121 which is fed to the convolution processor.

Where the gain required is embodied within the FIR (or set of them), no additional gain adjustment is required (except for any user specified makeup gain described below). Where the gain required is not embodied in the FIR (or set of them) a gain adjustment signal 108 is derived and fed to the additional gain control element 113 via gain combiner 112.

User required make-up or overall gain may be applied by user selection 111 providing an extra gain demand signal which is combined in combiner 112 (which may be an adder if the gain signals are in logarithmic form, for example specified in dB, or a multiplier if specified in the form of a multiplicative value). The resultant gain signal is fed to the additional gain element 113 which applies this gain to the output of the convolution device and feeds the resultant signal (by way of digital to analogue converter 114 if desired) to the output of the device.

Amplitude assessment with time constants

Amplitude assessment may be performed in a number of ways familiar to a skilled person. An example is shown in figure 10. The absolute value of an input sample S is determined and is known as |S|. This is compared with the current envelope E. If it is greater, the value is E is increased according to the amount |S| exceeds E under control of the attack constant k1, as follows

$$E=E+k1.(|S| - E).$$

The release constant is then applied which results in an exponential reduction in E:

$$E=k2.E.$$

It is possible to elaborate this with two stages of time constant or with additional low pass filtering to remove unwanted audio modulation of the derived envelope with improvements in overall distortion characteristics but the above is sufficient for an acceptable simulation.

The constants k1 and k2 may be related to analogue time constants T1 and T2 by noting that 1-k1 raised to the value r gives exp(-1/T1) and k2 raised to the value r gives exp(-1/T2) where r is the sample rate in samples per second.

Gain Reduction Processor

By reference to the gain characteristic of the device under test an appropriate gain table is derived for the ratio desired by the operator according to the method already described. This may be calculated once each time the user selects a desired ratio setting.

On a sample by sample basis the envelope signal derived from the amplitude assessment of the input signal is determined and converted to logarithmic form (i.e in dB relative to 0dBm input). If at this stage it is desired to adjust the threshold from that used during the sample, an increase in desired threshold is subtracted from the envelope (a decrease is added) and the result used to determine a desired gain from the table of output amplitudes versus input amplitudes. If the value falls between table entries a simple linear interpolation is applied.

Once the gain required is determined, it is now necessary to determine whether there is a FIR set stored appropriate to this gain value. If there is then this FIR set is selected into the convolution selection algorithm. If there is not a FIR set for this gain reduction, but there is for two other gain reductions on either side of the required gain, these two FIR sets are selected into the convolution algorithm and an interpolation value is generated to achieve the desired intermediate effect. In the case where the attenuations are embodied in the FIR (or sets of them) the interpolation factor may be derived as follows.

If FIR set A gives an attenuation of a dB and FIR set B gives an attenuation of b dB, then the multiplicative factor appropriate to each Ma and Mb is as follows

$Ma = 10^{(a/20)}$, and $Mb = 10^{(b/20)}$.

Applying an interpolation factor of j to FIR set A gives a total multiplicative gain Mg of

$Mg = j.Ma + (1-j).Mb.$

And the desired gain in dB $G = 20 \log(Mg)$, or $Mg = 10^{(G/20)}$.

Thus j may be derived for this sample from the rearrangement

$$j = (Mg-Mb) / (Ma - Mb). \quad (5)$$

Ma and Mb are known in advance for each FIR set so it is only necessary to calculate Mg and hence j for each sample. In addition a list may be kept at for example 0.1dB intervals of all desired gains and the resulting choices of FIR sets and interpolating factors so that simple table look up may be performed on a sample by sample basis.

In the situation where the desired gain is greater than or less than that for every stored FIR set. The single FIR set embodying a gain closest to the desired gain is selected into the convolution algorithm and an additional gain factor F is generated such that

$F = G - A,$

where G is the desired gain at this instant and A is the gain of the nearest FIR set. The additional gain F in dB is added to any make up gain in 112 and passed to the additional gain element 113 to generate the desired overall gain.

In the case where the FIRs (or sets of them) do not have attenuations embodied in them, i.e., they are normalised to a fixed gain, the interpolation factor can be derived as described above to generate the desired audible signal processing characteristic although the convolution processor does not provide any gain adjustment to the signal. In this case the entire gain adjustment value G is fed to combiner 112 to implement the gain adjustment characteristic of the simulation. It should be noted that this allows the interpolation factor j to be derived in other ways, such as simple linear interpolation of the desired gain expressed in dBs between the gain values in dBs appropriate to the pair of FIR sets. Both the method described and this linear interpolation provide acceptable results and the choice will be open to the system designer according to available processing power.

EQ in the side chain

Where the system is used for sampling a complete audio processing channel including a gain control element, there may be some equalisation applied between the input and the gain controlling device. This results in some input signals being dynamically adjusted differently from others depending on frequency spectrum. A similar effect is achieved if a gain controlling device provides EQ in the side-chain (i.e. between the main audio signal path and the level detection section of the gain controlling device 1 of figure 1.

Both these variations can be handled by taking an additional analysis of the signal path between its input and the gain controlling device by taking a single impulse response test of this path to determine the frequency characteristic. This characteristic may be replicated in the optional additional EQ unit 129 of figure 9.

This additional equalisation is not usually critical to the operation of the overall system and it may be implemented by a straight finite impulse response convolution with the data derived from the above test or may be simulated by a derived infinite impulse response equaliser of broadly similar frequency response.

The existence of equalisation prior to the gain control element or in the side chain may suggest alternative frequencies for use in the gain reduction analysis such that the test signal is passed properly into the gain determining elements. It is also possible to use a number of different test frequencies to analyse the behaviour of the signal path prior to the compressor without reconnecting the test arrangement of figure 1 for subsequent synthesis.

Use without the Non-Linear effects synthesis of The Prior Application

Although this system has been described using the non-linear effects analysis and synthesis of The Prior Application it is possible to determine a single impulse response at each gain setting measured to determine frequency response and relative gain and apply the above technique without the non-linear section of the algorithm. In this way a restricted but useful synthesis of the device is achieved simulating the gain characteristic, the frequency response and variation with gain reduction (if multiple gain reductions are sampled) and also simulations of time constant if implemented. This may even be desirable if it is determined that the non-linearity of the original device is not desirable in a given simulation so in any event the degree of non-linearity should be made variable as described in The Prior Application and also to include using a single impulse response from a derived set of data.

It is also possible to omit the impulse response determination completely and to use the methods of the invention to simulate the gain characteristic alone or in combination with the time constant characteristic. In such a system, the table of input levels to output levels as for example shown in figure 4 is derived from a gain controlling device and stored for future simulation. It is then possible to simulate the gain reduction characteristic without the convolution achieving at least that part of the desirable characteristic of the original device embodied in this transfer curve. Such a simulation system, with reference to figure 9, would omit the convolution processor 102 and the selector circuitry 107.

Use without Analyser or with data derived from alternate uses of the analyser

Although the description explains how to take measurements of existing audio dynamics processor devices and how to simulate them, it is also possible to generate the necessary data for synthesis by means of any desired model of such a processor or by mixing data obtained from different sources.

In particular:

1. The curves of gain characteristic can be calculated for a computer model of a desired effects device, or may be drawn by an operator on a computer screen either completely freely, or may be modified manually by graphical manipulation from existing data. In any of these ways an operator may obtain a desired gain characteristic not available in a real dynamics processor device.

2. Time constant characteristics may be freely substituted for any measured characteristics, or derived by operator choice to more closely suit the audio material to be processed.

3. Characteristic FIR sets (either linear or non-linear) may be generated by computer model of a gain control device that it is required to simulate, for example there are now a number of ways to simulate valve circuits, and it would be possible to generate arithmetically the impulse response of these simulations appropriate to a variety of levels of impulse and gain variations of the simulated device. These impulse responses may then be used with the methods described herein to process audio according to these derived characteristics.

4. Characteristic FIR sets (either linear or non-linear) may also be derived from other audio devices or systems which have a desirable characteristic and used with the methods described herein to simulate a dynamic control device not currently achievable.

One example is illustrated by reference to figure 11 in which it is shown how to derive two or more sets of impulse response characteristics from a microphone positioned in front of a loudspeaker 142 in a room 143 of a particular ambience. Responses (either linear using a single impulse test or non-linear as described in The Prior Application) can be obtained with the microphone at location 140 and at a different location 141 at a different distance from the loudspeaker, giving an amplitude reduction characteristic derived from moving away from the sound source. The two impulse responses or sets of them embody two different gains (as well as different ambience characteristics) and this pair of impulse response characteristics is now used in the method of simulation described herein to simulate compression and the compression effect simulated will be one of reducing dynamics by moving towards and away from the audio source according to amplitude of the source. This may be used for example to simulate the effect of a singer who has learned to moved to and from a microphone according to the volume of the voice to control dynamics.

A further example is illustrated in figure 12 in which a set of non linear impulse responses of a system 150 (which may also be stereo or other multi-channel system) is taken at progressively increasing levels comprising at least two different sets of levels 151 and 152 according to The Prior Application to generate response sets 153 and 154 where the system 150 exhibits gain reduction through progressively moving into non-linearity. Each FIR set is assigned a gain value for use in the gain reduction simulation according to an estimate of the gain of the system at the peak signal level, typically by estimating the peak deviation of the impulse response obtained from each sequence of test impulses. These are used as a set of non linear FIR sets of at least two intrinsic gains in the simulation method described herein to produce a compression effect characteristic of an overdriven system. System 150 may be a totally electronic device or for example an amplifier and speaker system with sound picked up by microphone.

By reference to figure 13 the exact operation of the bi-linear interpolation of figure 9 can be demonstrated.

FIR set storage 105 of figure 9 is also illustrated in figure 13 as a sequence of storage of sets of impulse responses. In this case each impulse response is shown with 8 elements for clarity but in practice many more elements will be used.

According to The Prior Application a factor k is determined to interpolate between two impulse responses in a FIR set (see for example figure 10 of The Prior Application). This is shown appearing in figure 13 where it is used to interpolate between elements of for example response #4 and #5 of FIRSET 1, and also between the matching elements of FIRSET 2. It is also shown in figure 9 at 120.

Interpolation factor j is also determined in equation (5) above as the interpolation between two sets of impulse responses representing two different gains. These are illustrated in figure 13 as FIRSET 1 and FIRSET 2.

In this way a single value 160 is derived from the 4 elements of the 4 impulse responses by bilinear interpolation using values j and k which are determined on a sample by sample basis for each step in the convolution process as the elements of each impulse response are stepped through in the convolution algorithm.

In practice, as described and shown in figure 14 of The Prior Application, it is convenient to generate part sums for each multiply accumulate operation for a given input sample, where j, k and the pointers into the FIR set memory can be determined once for each sample and applied repeatedly. In this way for each input sample an output sample can be produced and part sums for subsequent output samples assembled.

CLAIMS:

1. A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristic at a plurality of different levels;

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and

applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal.

2. A method according to claim 1 in which the amplitude falls between two gain characteristics and an interpolation between these is made to apply to the input signal.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 including the step of storing at least one impulse response and applying a stored impulse response to the input signal in addition to the gain characteristic.

4. A method according to any preceding claim in which the gain characteristic to be applied to an input signal is determined in response to a manual input.

5. A method according to claim 3 or 4 in which an interpolation between two or more impulse responses is made and applied to the input signal.

6. A method according to claim 4 in which a manual input is used to select the impulse responses to be applied.

7. A method according to any preceding claim in which the gain characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic of an audio signal processor.

8. Apparatus for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising:

means for storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristics at a plurality of different levels;

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and

applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal.

9. Apparatus according to claim 8 in which the amplitude of the input signal falls between two gain characteristics and including means for interpolating between these two gain characteristics to produce a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal.

10. A method according to claim 8 or 9 including means for storing at least one impulse response, and means for applying a stored impulse response to the input signal in addition to the gain characteristic.

11. A method according to any of the claims 9 to 10 including a manual input for a gain characteristic to be applied to an input signal.

12. Apparatus according to claim 10 or 11 including means for interpolating between two or more impulse responses before applying the interpolated response to the input signal.

13. Apparatus according to claim 11 including a manual input to select the impulse response to be applied.

14. Apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 13 in which the gain characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic of an audio signal processor.

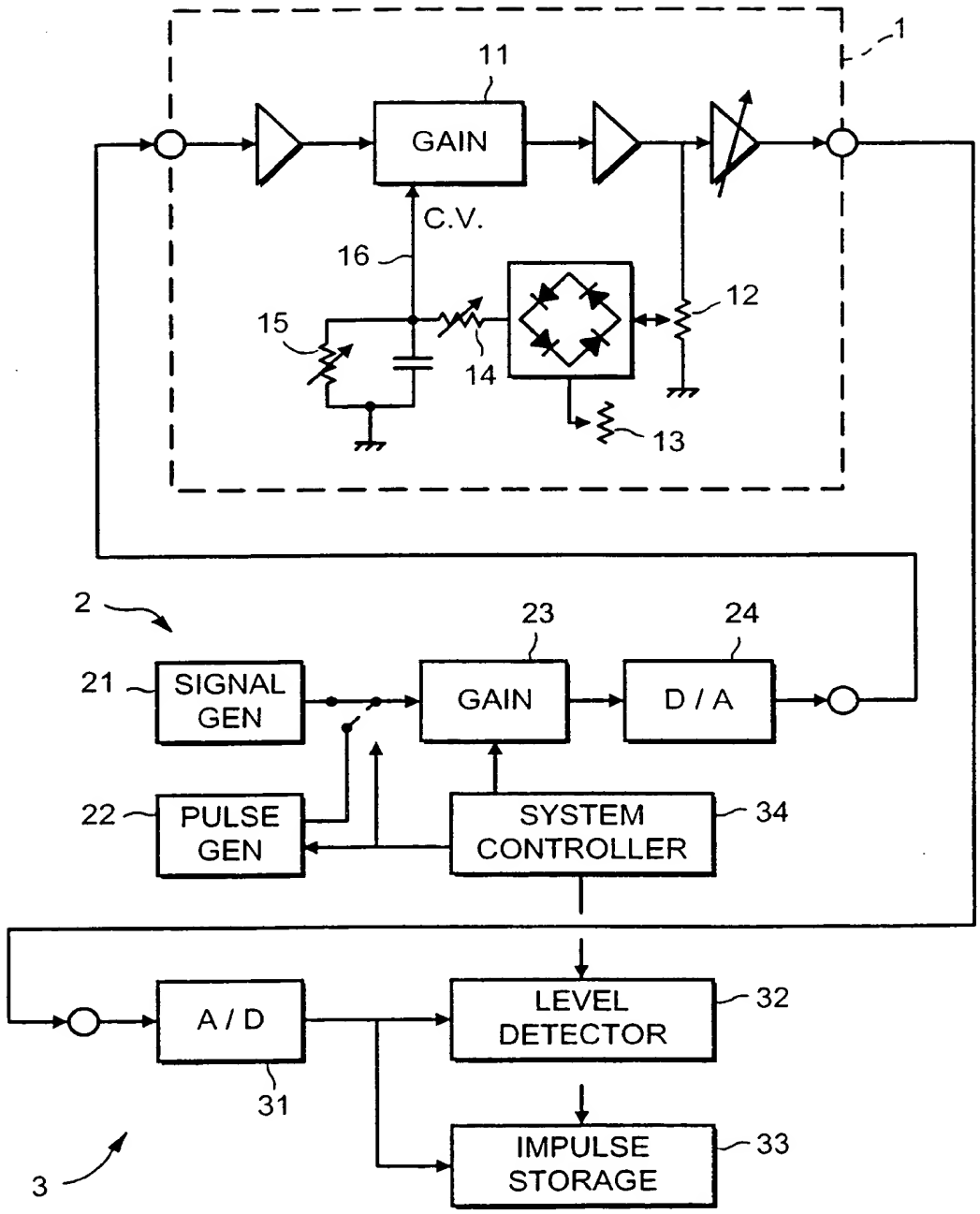

1
11
GAIN
C.V.
16
15
14
12
13
2
23
24
21
SIGNAL GEN
GAIN
D / A
22
PULSE GEN
SYSTEM CONTROLLER
34
A / D
LEVEL DETECTOR
32
31
IMPULSE STORAGE
33
3

FIG. 1

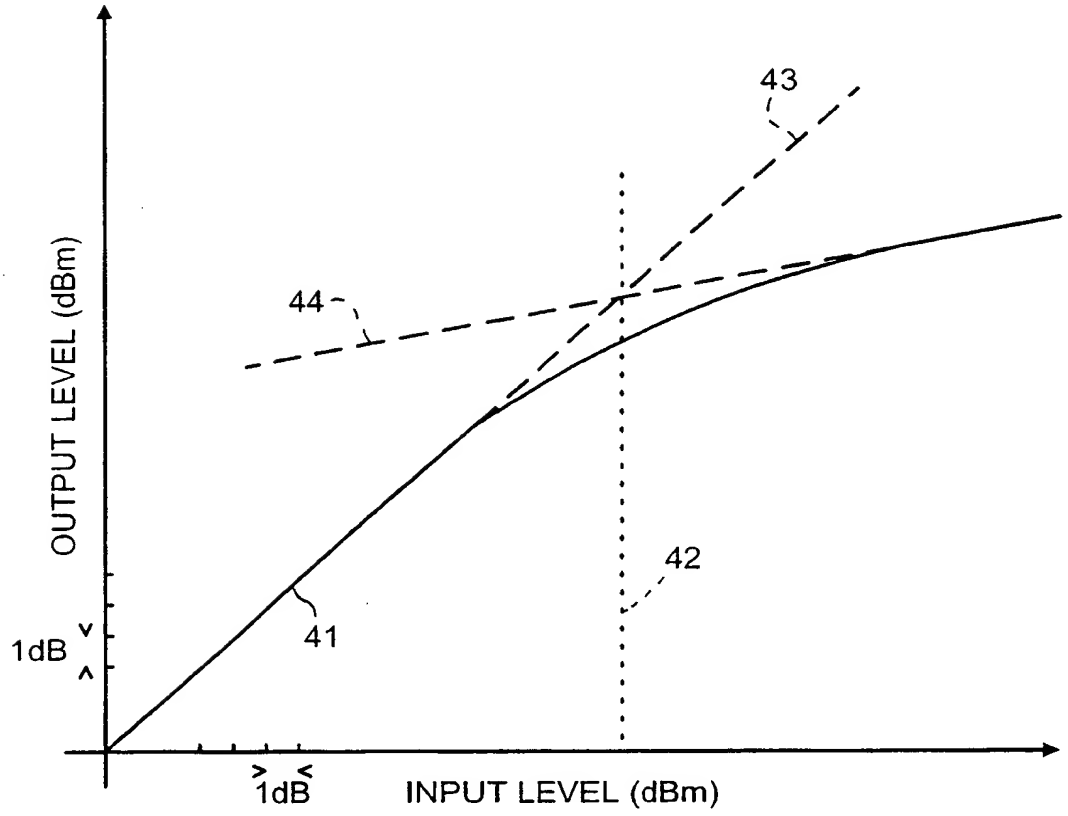

43
44
OUTPUT LEVEL (dBm)
42
41
1dB
1dB
INPUT LEVEL (dBm)

FIG. 2(a)

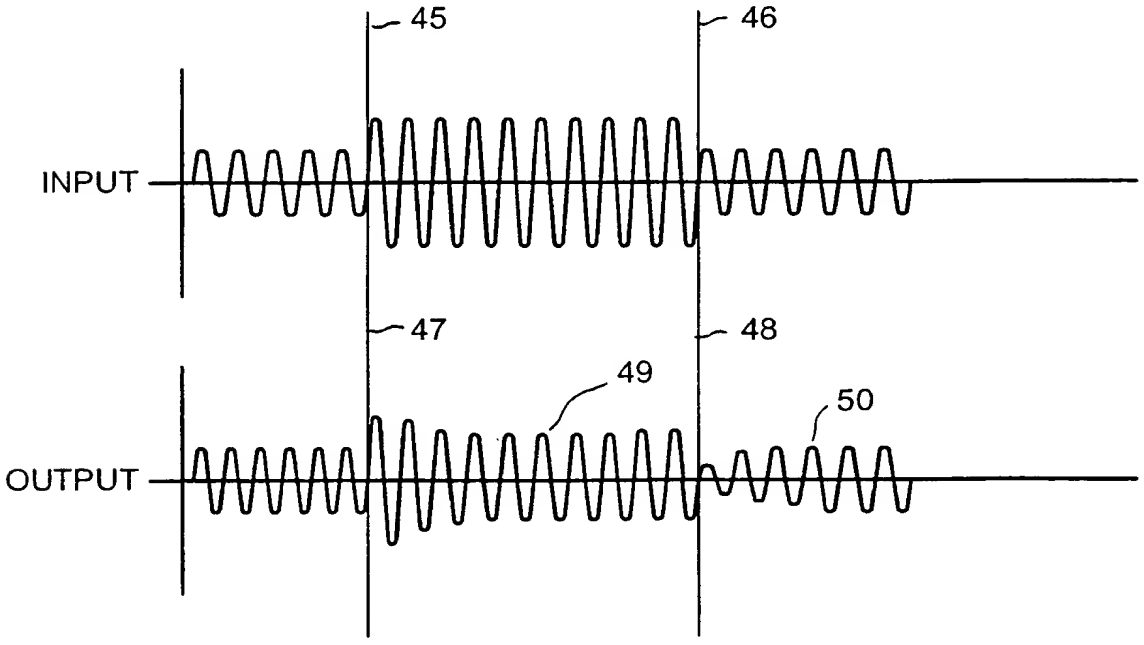

45
46
INPUT
47
48
49
50
OUTPUT

FIG. 2(b)

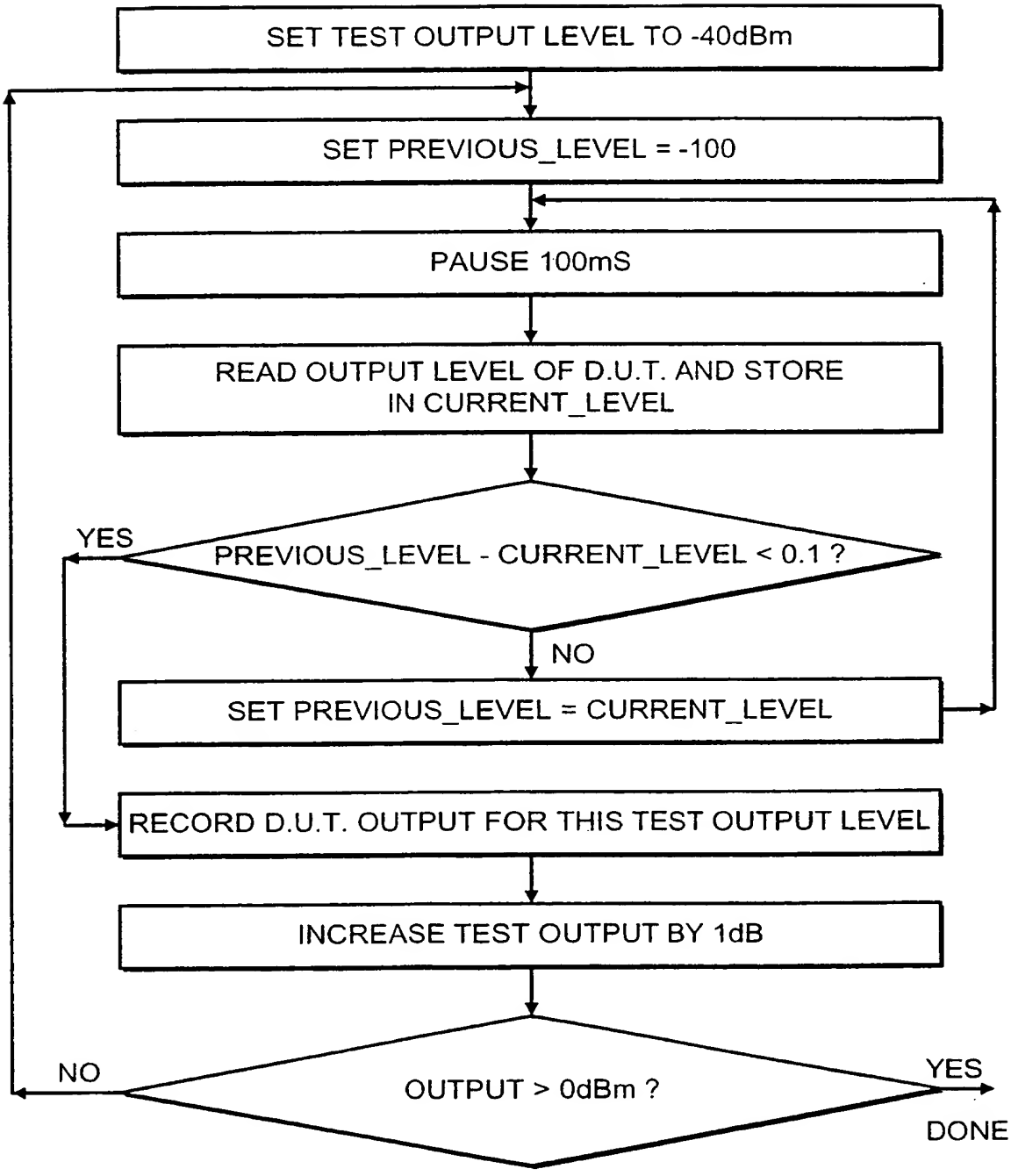

SET TEST OUTPUT LEVEL TO -40dBm
SET PREVIOUS_LEVEL = -100
PAUSE 100mS
READ OUTPUT LEVEL OF D.U.T. AND STORE IN CURRENT_LEVEL
YES
PREVIOUS_LEVEL - CURRENT_LEVEL < 0.1 ?
NO
SET PREVIOUS_LEVEL = CURRENT_LEVEL
RECORD D.U.T. OUTPUT FOR THIS TEST OUTPUT LEVEL
INCREASE TEST OUTPUT BY 1dB
NO
OUTPUT > 0dBm ?
YES
DONE

FIG. 3

FIG. 4(a)

TABLE OF OUTPUT LEVEL TEST DATA FOR TRANSFER CURVE OF 'IDEAL' COMPRESSOR

INPUT / RATIO	1.5:1	5:1	20:1
-40dBm	-33.3	-33.3	-33.3
-39dBm	-32.3	-32.3	-32.3
-38dBm	-31.3	-31.3	-31.3
...			
-30dBm	-23.3	-23.3	-23.3
...			
-20dBm	-13.3	-13.3	-13.3
...			
-10dBm	-6.7	-11.3	-12.8
...			
-2dBm	-1.3	-9.7	-11.9
-1dBm	-0.7	-9.5	-11.95
0dBm	0.0	-9.3	-11.8

FIG. 4(b)

TABLE OF OUTPUT LEVEL TEST DATA FOR TRANSFER CURVE OF 'TYPICAL' COMPRESSOR

INPUT / RATIO	1.5:1	5:1	20:1
-40dBm	-35.5	-35.7	-35.5
-39dBm	-34.5	-34.6	-34.5
-38dBm	-33.4	-33.5	-33.4
...			
-30dBm	-24.9	-25.5	-27.2
...			
-20dBm	-16.3	-17.5	-19.2
...			
-10dBm	-11.2	-13.4	-15.8
...			
-2dBm	-1.7	-11.7	-12.8
-1dBm	-1.1	-11.6	-12.8
0dBm	-0.3	-11.5	-12.7

FIG. 5(a)

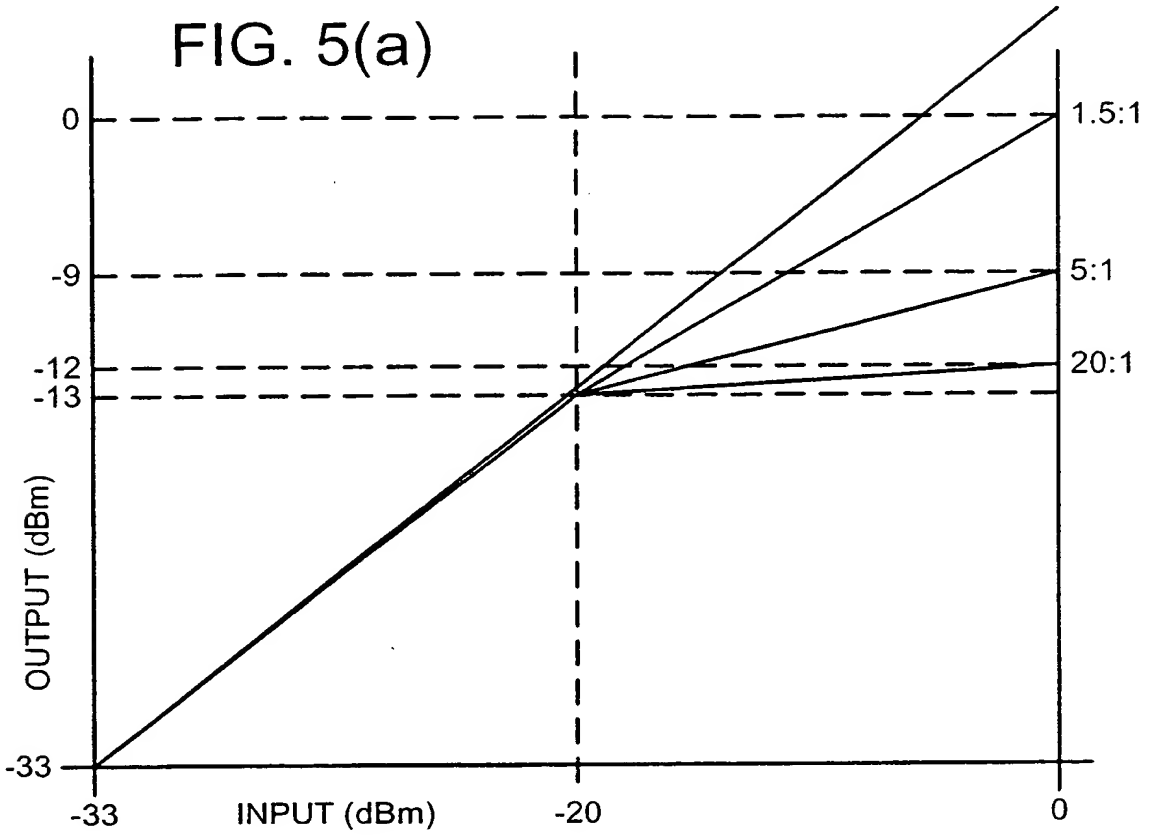
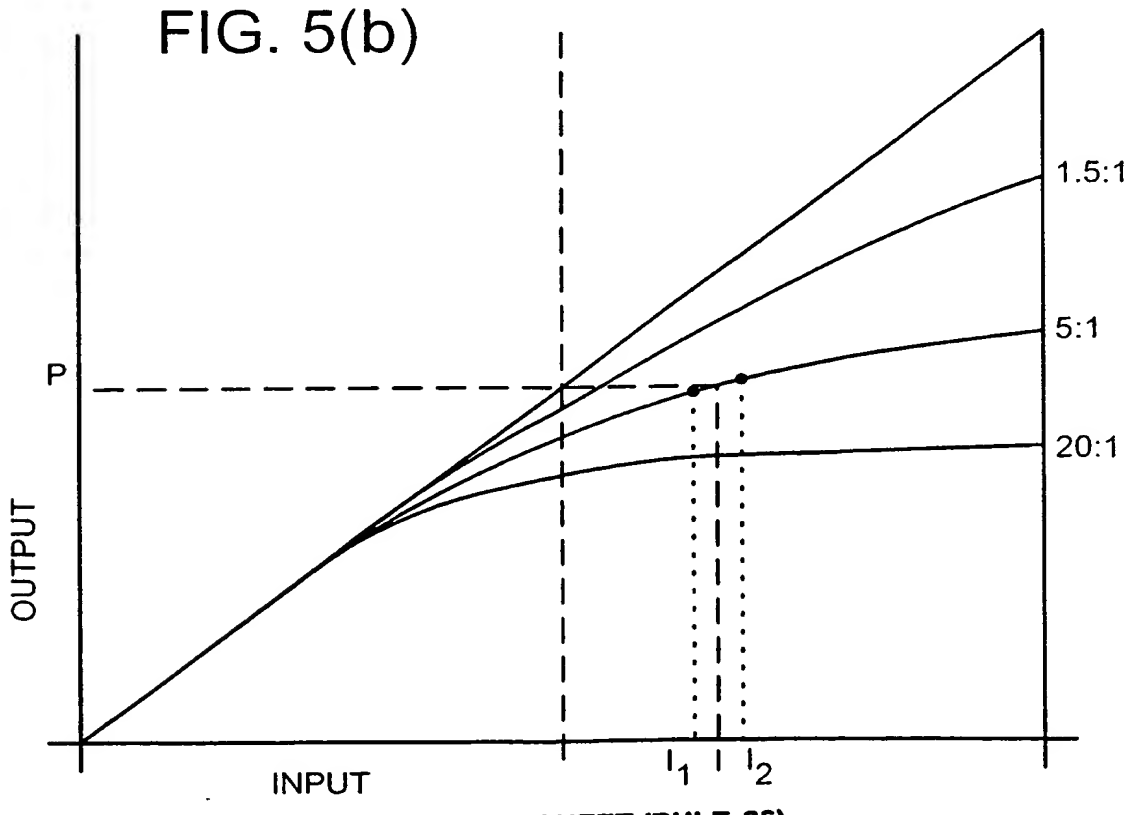

0
-9
-12
-13
-33
1.5:1
5:1
20:1
OUTPUT (dBm)
-33
INPUT (dBm)
-20
0

FIG. 5(b)


P
1.5:1
5:1
20:1
OUTPUT
INPUT
I1
I2

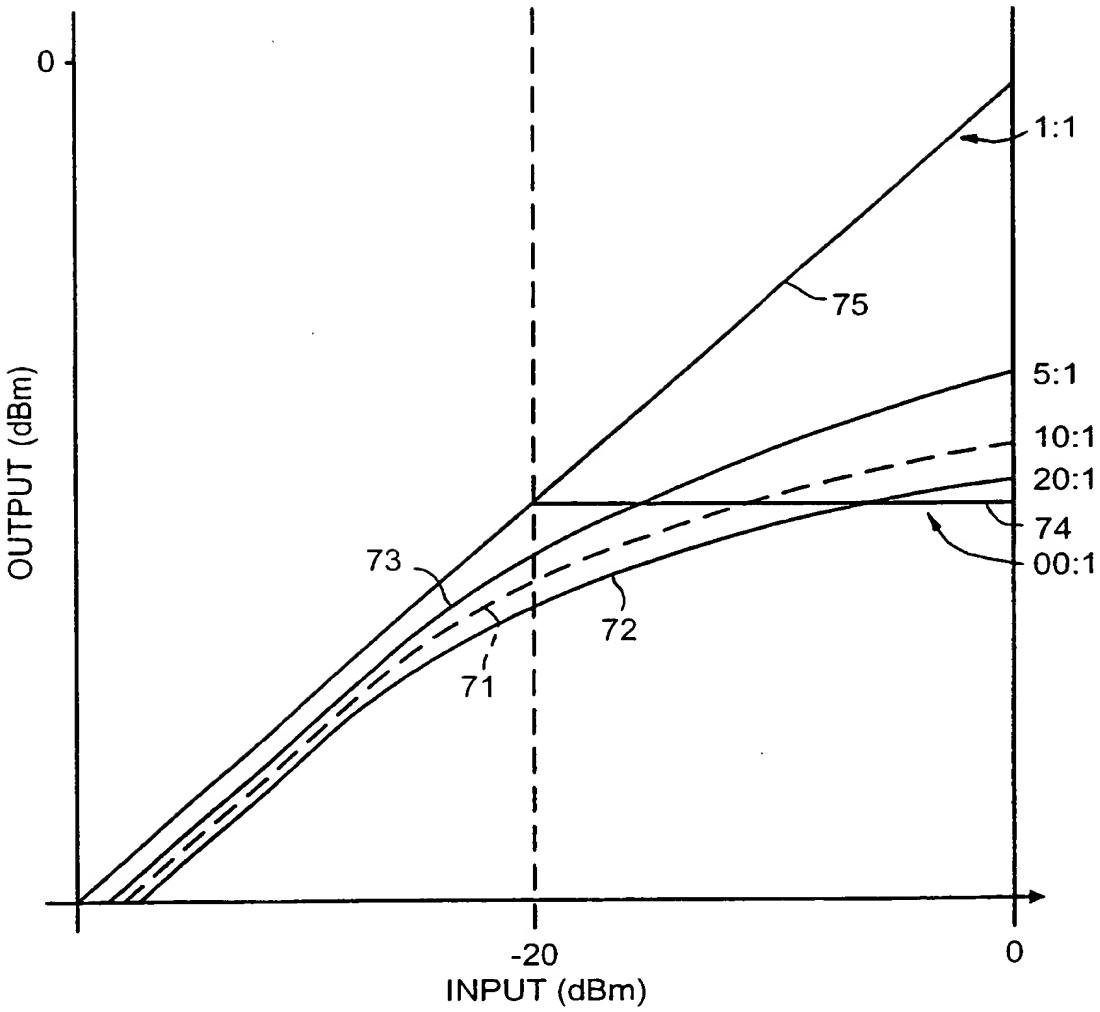


FIG. 6

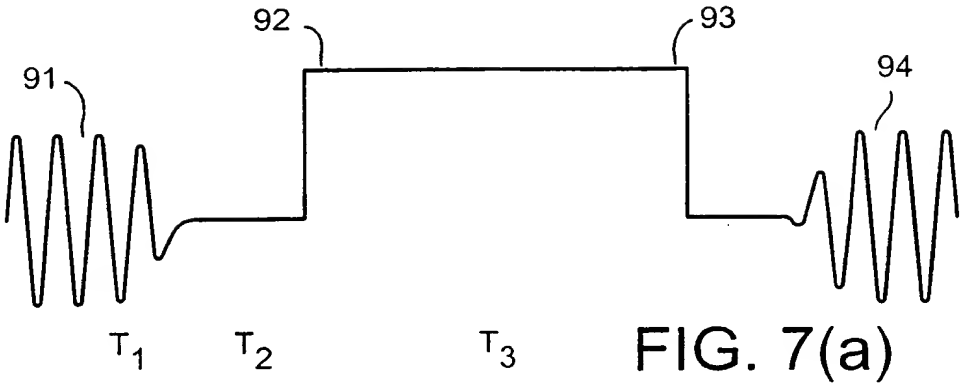


FIG. 7(a)

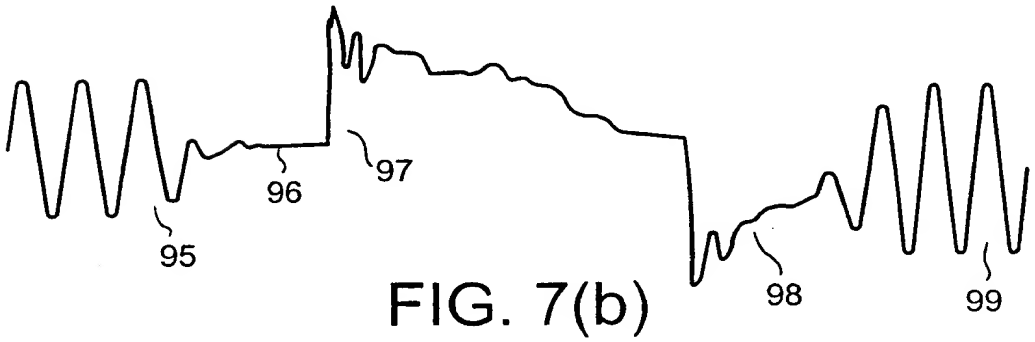


FIG. 7(b)

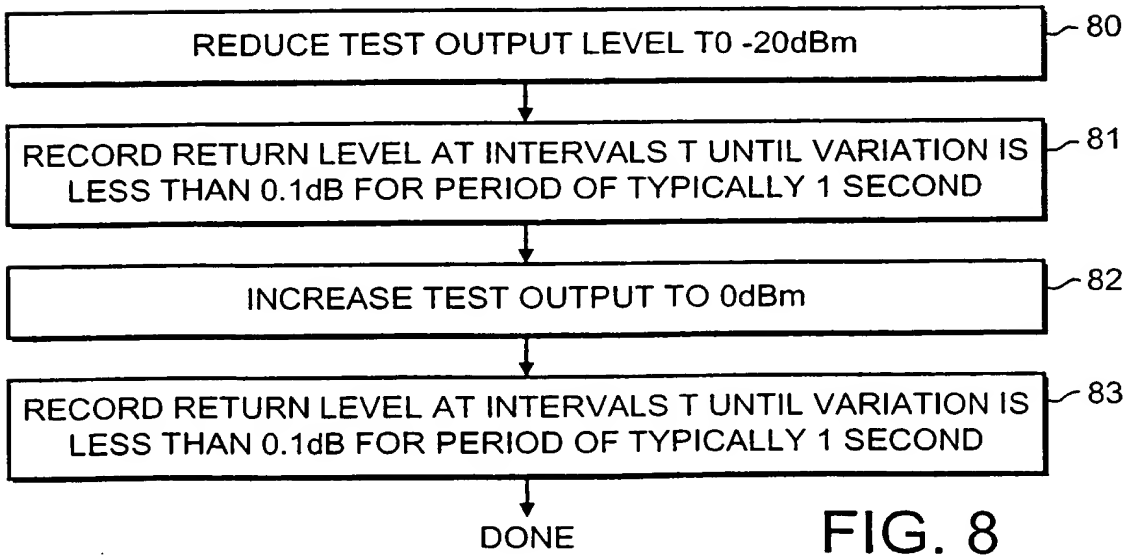


FIG. 8

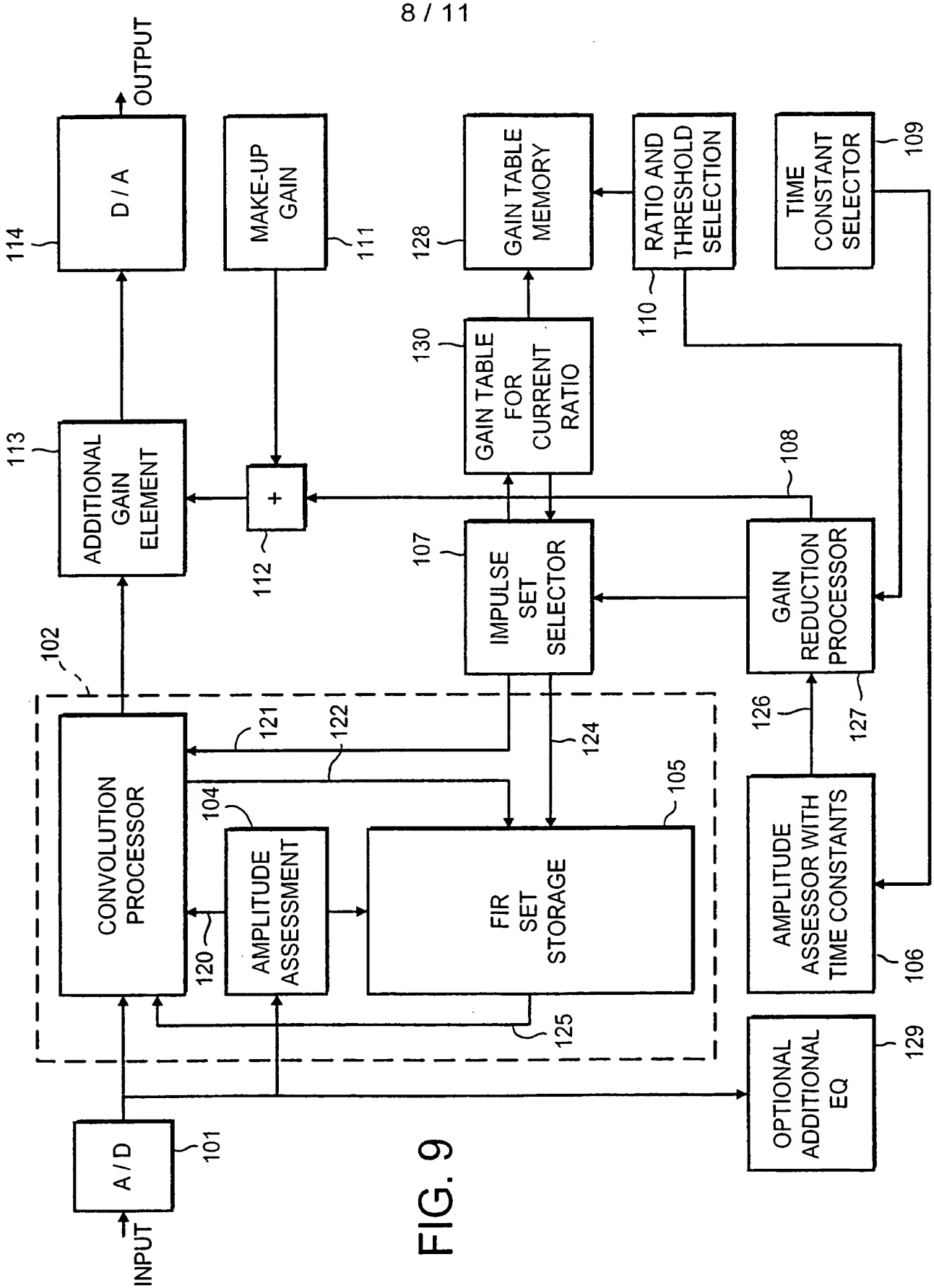

INPUT
A / D
101
CONVOLUTION PROCESSOR
102
AMPLITUDE ASSESSMENT
104
120
FIR SET STORAGE
105
121
122
124
125
ADDITIONAL GAIN ELEMENT
113
D / A
114
OUTPUT
+
112
MAKE-UP GAIN
111
GAIN TABLE FOR CURRENT RATIO
130
GAIN TABLE MEMORY
128
RATIO AND THRESHOLD SELECTION
110
TIME CONSTANT SELECTOR
109
IMPULSE SET SELECTOR
107
GAIN REDUCTION PROCESSOR
108
126
127
AMPLITUDE ASSESSOR WITH TIME CONSTANTS
106
OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL EQ
129

FIG. 9

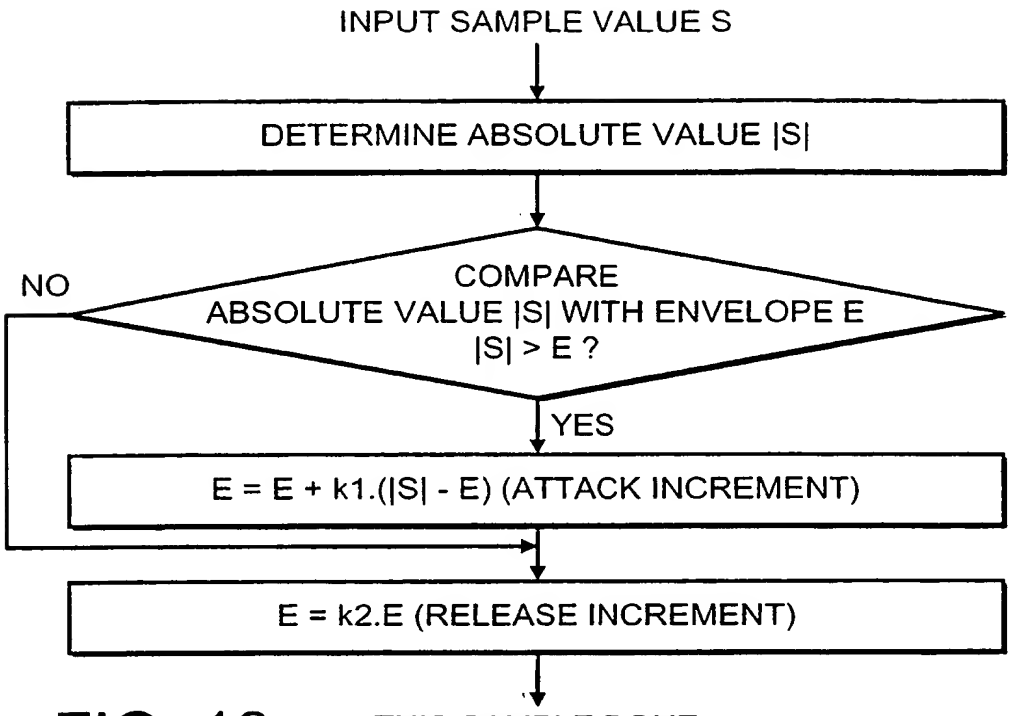

INPUT SAMPLE VALUE S
DETERMINE ABSOLUTE VALUE |S|
COMPARE
ABSOLUTE VALUE |S| WITH ENVELOPE E
|S| > E ?
NO
YES
E = E + k1.(|S| - E) (ATTACK INCREMENT)
E = k2.E (RELEASE INCREMENT)
THIS SAMPLE DONE

FIG. 10

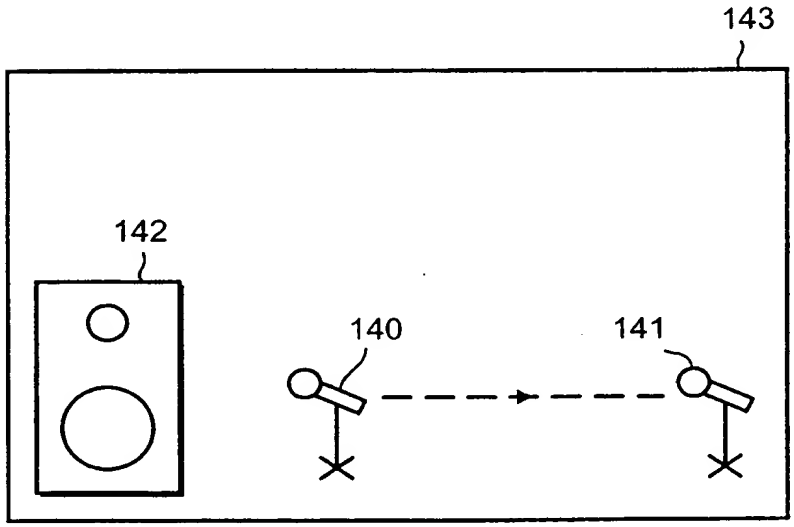

143
142
140
141

FIG. 11

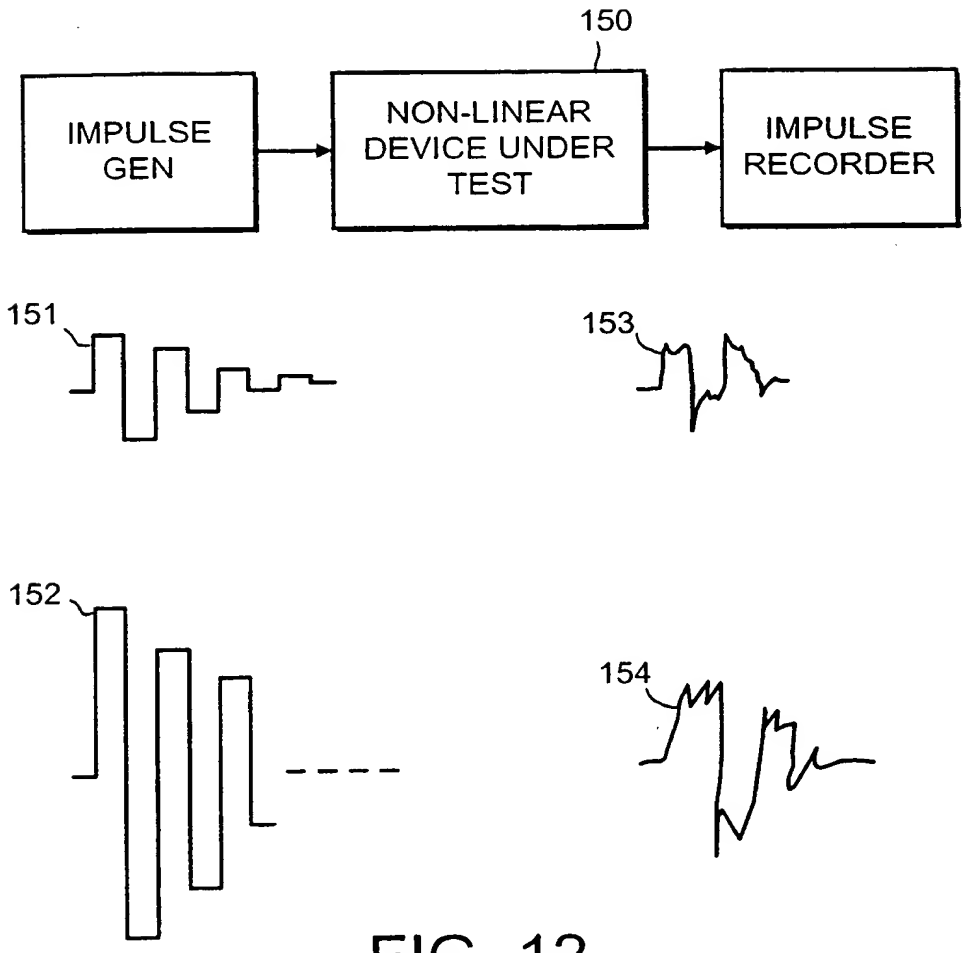

150
IMPULSE GEN
NON-LINEAR DEVICE UNDER TEST
IMPULSE RECORDER
151
153
152
154

FIG. 12

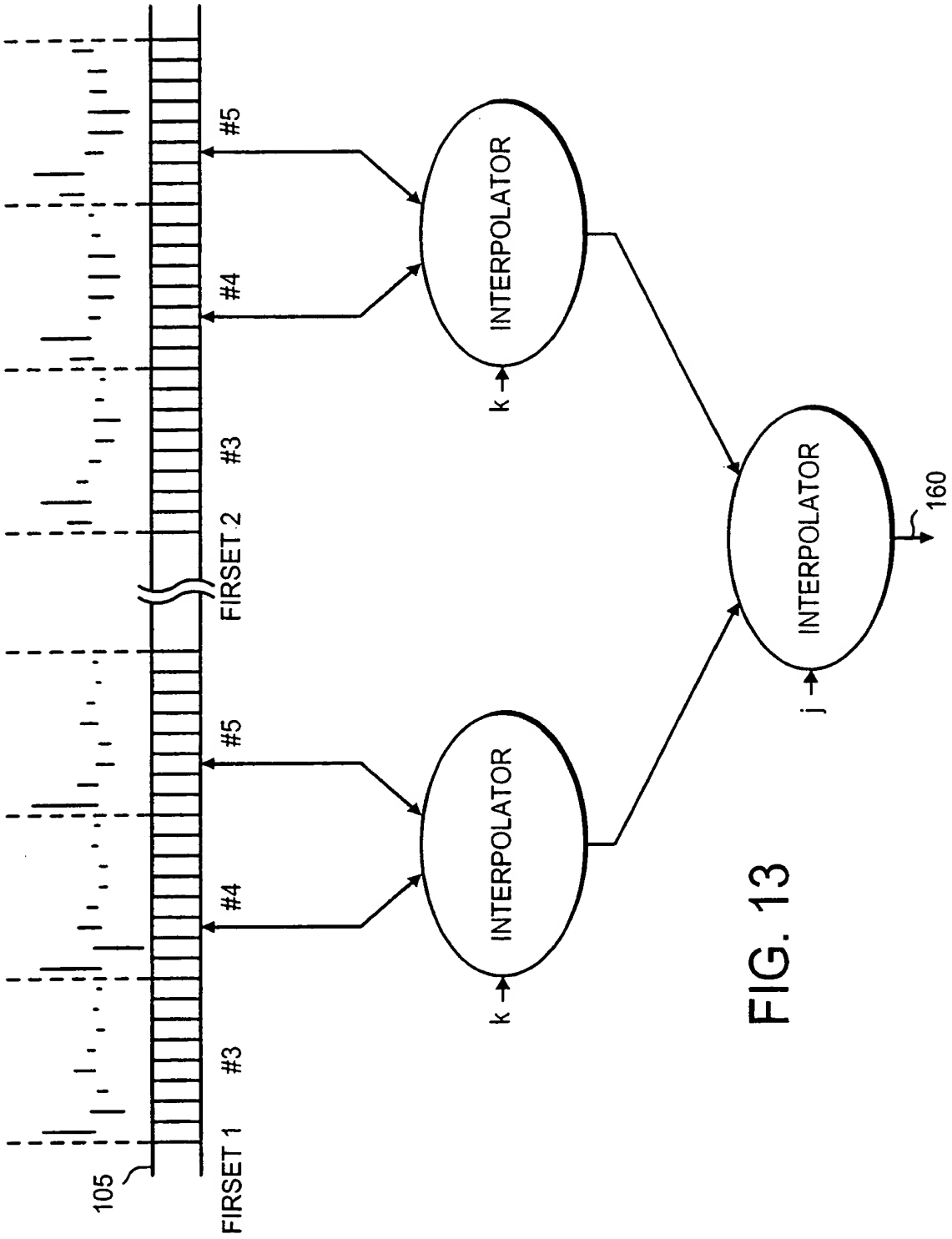

105
FIRSET 1
#3
#4
#5
FIRSET 2
#3
#4
#5
INTERPOLATOR
INTERPOLATOR
INTERPOLATOR
k
k
j
160

FIG. 13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern[illegible] Application No
PCT/GB 99/03753

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G10H1/46

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G10H

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3 519 724 A (COOKERLY JACK C ET AL) 7 July 1970 (1970-07-07) column 4, line 35 -column 5, line 45; figures 1,2	1,2,8,9
A	US 5 578 948 A (TOYAMA SOICHI) 26 November 1996 (1996-11-26) column 5, line 64 -column 7, line 2; figures 6,7	1,7,8,14
A	FR 2 257 173 A (MONTANARI SERGIO) 1 August 1975 (1975-08-01) page 2, line 15 -page 3, line 15; figures 1,2	1,8
A	GB 2 258 099 A (PIONEER ELECTRONIC CORP) 27 January 1993 (1993-01-27) page 4, line 11 - line 24	1,8

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
31 March 2000	13/04/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016	Pulluard, R

1

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/GB 99/03753

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 3519724 A	07-07-1970	NONE	
US 5578948 A	26-11-1996	JP 5006177 A	14-01-1993
FR 2257173 A	01-08-1975	IT 1005264 B	20-08-1976
		DE 2435868 A	17-07-1975
		ES 429136 A	16-11-1976
GB 2258099 A	27-01-1993	JP 5019777 A	29-01-1993
		US 5315662 A	24-05-1994